

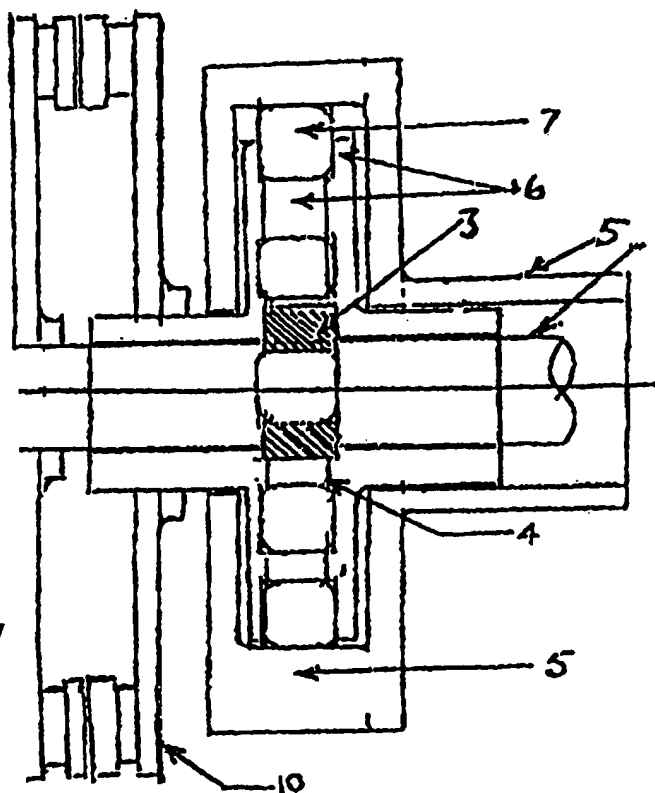
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(54) Title: VARIABLE RATIO GEARBOX

(57) Abstract

A variable ratio gearbox including a centre shaft (1), cage (6) and outer body (5). A first member (3) is between the centre shaft (1) and the cage (6) for communicating movement therebetween, and a second member (7) is between the cage (6) and the outer body (5) for communicating movement therebetween. Upon rotation of one said component (shaft, cage or outer body) at least one of the remaining components is caused to rotate. The output from one component (shaft, cage or outer body) is such that variation of a load between zero and a maximum value corresponds to variation of the ratio of the angular velocity between the other two or more components. This variation is achieved by a second input or brake (10).



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TITLE: VARIABLE RATIO GEARBOX

This invention relates to devices for the transmission of mechanical power in the form of rotational motion. In particular, it is directed to transmission of power between a first rotationally movable element and a second rotationally movable element to provide a device which can provide, in a preferred form, continuously variable ratios, of angular velocity at an input to angular velocity at an output, within the range of ratios $-1:1$ to 0 to $+1:1$.

10 The present invention finds use in electronic, hydraulic or mechanical applications and, in a preferred form, provides variable input and output speeds; an output angular velocity that varies from 0 to \pm the gear ratio as the input varies from zero to the input angular velocity; torque multiplication; the ability to vary speed and torque. Furthermore, the present invention provides multiple
15 inputs and/or outputs and reduction, step up or $1:1$ gear ratios. This invention includes the use of a planetary drive, that is a drive which includes a set of rollers, bearings or similar moveable parts, arranged in a circle around an axis and configured so that, through their movement in concert, apply torque to a body whose resultant rotation is used as the output of the drive. Examples of
20 similar drives are described in Australian Patents 607822 and 613927 as spin control differentials for vehicles and couplings. A planetary drive based on a sun gear, a ring gear a planetary gear and a planetary gear carrier is disclosed in Australian Patent number 465202 in the name of Eaton Corporation.

25 Examples of planetary drives are manufactured by Sumitomo Heavy Industries Ltd, Japan, under the name "cyclodrive".

Although planetary gears are known, the prior art gears have failed to take advantage of certain of their features, in particular, the contra-rotational nature of
30 the input and output shafts.

It is a general object of one or more various preferred embodiments of the present invention to provide a device which can provide continuously variable output angular velocity to input angular velocity ratio; to provide a device which can combine more than one input angular velocity ratio; to provide a device which can provide one or more
5 angular velocity output; to achieve this, sophisticated techniques involving integrating, balancing or heterodyning more than one rotational force by either mechanical or electrical means. The invention is capable of absorbing energy from or inputting energy to the output, thus providing regenerative braking or acceleration according to the power output demand. The effect of electronically controlling the self-braking of the
10 contra-rotating magnetic discs produces the mechanical equivalent of the input forces causing a constantly variable output in speed with variable torque.

In a first embodiment, the invention resides in a variable ratio gear including:

15 a planetary gear and a variable brake;

said planetary gear including an outer body, at least one cage and a centre shaft;

a first means between said centre shaft and said cage;

20

a second means between said cage and said outer body;

wherein, upon rotation of said shaft, at least one of said outer body and said cage is caused to rotate;

25

and wherein said variable brake includes a variable load means supported between said shaft and said cage such that variation of a load between zero and a maximum value corresponds to variation of the ratio of the angular velocity of said outer body to the angular velocity of said shaft.

30

In a second embodiment, a planetary gear has a variable balancing mechanism between any of the main three components of the gear which will allow for combining one more rotational angular velocity, with or without the use of a variable brake so that rotation of any said

component will likewise cause rotation in at least one of the other components, providing one or more angular velocity output also with the choice of contra-rotation.

- 5 Preferably, the cage includes a plurality of fingers joined at one end to a common plate and there are a plurality of rollers located between the fingers. The outer body of the planetary gear preferably has a plurality of scallops on an inner surface adapted to receive the rollers. The drive shaft preferably includes an offset cam in sequential operable connection with the rollers such that rotation of the drive shaft
10 causes the cam to sequentially rotate the rollers thereby rotating the outer body. The number of rollers differs from the number of scallops.

- The variable brake may suitably be a magnetic load applied between the drive shaft and the cage. The maximum load applicable by the brake is preferably sufficient
15 to lock rotation of the cage to rotation of the drive shaft.

- Preferably, the variable brake is continuously and smoothly variable between zero load and maximum load. The load provided by the variable controller or brake may suitably be controllable by a feedback signal derived from a measurement of the
20 angular velocity of the body, cage and shaft.

- In another embodiment, the variable brake comprises two separate drives, one drive for the shaft and one for the cage, such that heterodyning of the drives produces an output angular velocity of the outer body. The separate drives can be applied
25 to any two components of the variable ratio gear and the resultant output angular velocity will appear at the other components. Any source of initial power input can be used, eg, magnetic, hydraulic, manual, wind power.

- In yet another embodiment of the invention, a fixed speed reduction or acceleration
30 can be combined for such requirements as contra-rotation of two (or more) turbines

at either ends or opposite ends of a motor. Any type of feedback may allow the control of load sensing to equalize, using for example, fluid pressure.

In order to assist in further understanding of the invention a number of preferred
5 embodiments will be described with reference to the attached figures in which:

FIG 1: illustrates the end-on view of an example of a planetary drive.

FIG 2: illustrates a side-on cross section view of one embodiment
of the present invention.

10 FIG 3: illustrates a first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG 4: illustrates a second embodiment of the present invention,
namely, two self-contained electric motors with integrated gear,
having available electronic, or electro-mechanical biasing, ramping, or
15 a type of "yo-yo" effect allowing the motors to operate at their
optimum torque and speeds.

FIGS 5 – 11: illustrate other various embodiments and uses of the
present invention.

20 FIGS 11 – 30: illustrate other equally important embodiments and
uses of the present invention.

In order to describe the present invention, it is first necessary to describe the
operation of a planetary drive. FIG 1 shows a view, along the drive axis, of a
planetary drive. Clamped to an input drive shaft (1) is a cam (3), clamping sufficient
25 so that the cam does not slip on the shaft (1). Surrounding the cam is a circular
arrangement of 8 rigid objects, referred to here as "rollers", which can move radially
as allowed or forced by the cam. Maintaining constant angular separation of the
rollers is an arrangement of 8 "fingers" which are all joined at one end and remain
fixed relative to one another through connection at one end to a common body (6).
30 The combination of the fingers and the common body (6) is referred to as the
"cage". Surrounding the cage is the "outer body" (5), whose exterior is cylindrical

but whose interior wall has indentations or "scallops" whose purpose is to receive the rollers as they are pushed out by the cam. In FIG 1, the number of scallops is 9. In order to achieve movement of the outer body through rotation of the shaft (1) and the cam (3), the number of scallops must be different from the number of
5 rollers.

In other examples of planetary drives, the rollers are referred to as "peanuts" and may be rigid slides or multiple rollers or may have axles, but the principle of operation of the drive remains identical. It can be seen from FIG 1 that, if the cage
10 is held fixed so that it cannot rotate about the drive axis, the outer body will rotate one complete revolution for every 9 complete revolutions completed by the drive shaft and that the direction of rotation of the outer body will be identical to that of the drive shaft. Furthermore, it can be seen that were the number of scallops equal to the number of rollers, the rollers would quickly align with the troughs of the
15 scallops and the action of the cam forcing the rollers into the scallops would not apply any torque to the outer body.

It should also be noted that were the outer body to be prevented from rotating about the drive axis with the cage left free to move, the cage would then rotate about the
20 drive axis in the opposite direction as the rotation of the drive shaft and cam, and that the cage would complete one such revolution for every eight revolutions of the drive shaft.

In a further embodiment where there are more rollers than scallops, if the cage is
25 held fixed about the drive axis, the outer body will rotate in the opposite direction as the drive shaft with some multiplication of the rotation which is defined by the numbers of rollers and scallops. Also, if the outer body is held fixed about the drive axis and the cage left free to move, the cage will rotate in the same direction as to the rotation of the drive axis, again with some multiplication of the motion which is
30 defined by the members of rollers and scallops.

It can also be seen that if one or the other of the cage or the outer body is held fixed with respect to the drive shaft, that is, if one or the other is compelled to have the same angular velocity as the drive shaft, then the third body is also compelled to have the same angular velocity as the drive shaft. For example, when a clutch
5 mechanism is installed in the planetary drive to keep the cage clamped fixedly to the drive shaft and the drive shaft is turned with some angular velocity, the outer body would also turn with an identical angular velocity.

For the sake of further explanation of this invention, consider the rotation of the
10 outer body to be the output of the system. Also, consider that the planetary drive is one in which the number of peanuts or rollers is smaller than the number of scallops in the outer body. In such a system, the drive will transmit some mechanical power, supplied at the input to the system via the drive shaft, to some mechanism attached either directly or indirectly to the output. The mechanism so
15 attached to the output will load the drive; and will be called the load. If such a load is large enough that it overcomes frictional torques within the drive and the drive shaft is rotated, the output will remain stationary and the cage will rotate in the direction opposite to that of the drive shaft if allowed to do so. If, on the other hand, the cage is forced to rotate with the same angular velocity as the drive shaft, the
20 output will also rotate with the same angular velocity. Supplying mechanical power to a load which is initially at rest can place unwanted strain on the devices providing the mechanical power to the input of the drive.

So far, two extremes of the situation have been considered. There is a continuum
25 of intermediate conditions which can be instituted by applying torque to the cage which opposes that torque which makes it spin in the direction opposite to that of the direction of the spin of the drive shaft.

Consider again the situation in which a substantial load is attached to the output
30 and the cage is left free to spin. If the drive shaft is rotated, the output will remain still and the cage will rotate in a direction opposite to that of the shaft. If now a

opposing torque is applied to the cage which causes some reduction of its angular velocity while the angular velocity of the drive shaft remains substantially constant, the output will begin to move in the same direction as the drive shaft. the angular velocity of the output, with constant angular velocity of the drive shaft, is determined by
5 gearing within the planetary drive and the amount by which the backward rotation of the cage is retarded. The magnitude of the retarding torque is a continuum, so the apparent gearing ratio, that is the input angular velocity compared to the output velocity, also appears as a continuum.

10 If enough retarding torque is applied that the cage stops spinning, the gearing ratio would be that which is directly calculable through counting the number of scallops and cam peaks, the number of peanuts of rollers does not generally enter into this calculation. If even more "retarding" torque is applied to the cage so that it begins to rotate in the same direction as the drive shaft the angular velocity of the output
15 increases still more. If the retarding torque is increased so that the cage and the drive shaft have the same angular velocity the angular velocity of the output will be the same as that of the drive shaft.

It is also possible to apply enough positive torque so that the cage over-runs the drive
20 shaft, that is, the cage has angular velocity greater than that of the drive shaft. This will cause the output to rotate with an angular velocity which is greater than that of the drive shaft.

It is possible to obtain an accelerated output either by applying multiple inputs to any of the
25 three components of this gear, (as described in the windmill operation, pages 11, 12 and harmonic heterodyning) or by applying an opposite torque to the cage relative to the outer body in order to accelerate the cam.

By using the present invention, a continuously varying turning ratio of the output drive shaft compared to the input, can provide the range of ratios from -1:1 to 0 to +1:1.

In this embodiment of the invention, FIG 2, this control is effected by introducing a magnetic brake (10) which is used to couple the motion of the drive shaft to the cage, using some of the torque supplied by the drive shaft to be the retarding torque applied to the cage. The amount of coupling between the drive shaft and the cage
5 can be varied by varying the current supplied to the electromagnets of the magnetic brake, the more current applied, the greater the magnetic fields generated by the electromagnets and the greater the eddy currents produced in the cage. The eddy currents in the cage produce their own magnetic field which couple with the magnetic fields of the electromagnets and in doing so couple torque to the cage which is in the
10 same direction as the angular velocity of the drive shaft. This is the retarding torque.

Further to this embodiment, there is a variable "throttle" whose position indicates the desired final speed of the loading mechanism attached to the output. The position of the throttle is measured in such a way that its position is indicated by an electrical
15 signal. There is also a speed detector which measures the instantaneous speed of the loading mechanism. The source of driving torque is a synchronous electric motor which has a current detector attached to its source of electrical power to provide a measurement of the instantaneous current being drawn by the synchronous motor. A synchronous electric motor is one which is best operated such that its output shaft
20 turns at a constant speed, or angular velocity. This invention allows the use of such a motor even though the device has a continuous variable output angular velocity.

The measurements of the throttle position, the speed of the load and the current being supplied to the synchronous motor are fed as electrical signals to an electronic
25 device which provides an output signal which controls the amount of electrical current supplied to the electromagnets of the magnetic brake. That is, the output signal controls the amount of coupling of the torque of the drive shaft to

the cage. This feedback system is set to keep the angular velocity of the synchronous motor close to its optimum value while the load accelerates to the desired final speed.

5 A description of a typical accelerating sequence will now be given. With the load at rest, the synchronous motor is turned on and allowed to attain its optimum angular velocity with no controlling current applied to the electromagnets of the magnetic brake and therefore with no coupling between the drive shaft and the cage. As the motor gains speed, the cage spins with increasing angular velocity
10 with a direction opposite to that of the drive shaft. Assume now that the throttle is moved to a position which indicates that the desired maximum speed of the load corresponds to that attained when the angular velocity of the output of the planetary drive is equal to that of the drive shaft.

15 The feedback mechanism produces a signal which causes a certain amount of electrical current to be supplied to the electromagnets of the magnetic brake which couples a retarding torque to the cage. As the angular speed of the cage falls, due to the retarding torque, the output begins to move causing the load to accelerate. The brake is thus acting like a slipping clutch at this point. The load which is now
20 placed on the synchronous motor causes its angular velocity to decrease, an effect which is measured by the current detector attached to the source of electrical power. If the loading of the motor is too great, the feedback circuit causes the current to the electromagnets to be decreased, lessening the coupling of the drive shaft and the cage, in turn reducing the loading on the output.

25

If, on the other hand, the motor is operating at an angular velocity which is somewhat greater than its minimum, the feedback circuitry provides a signal which increases the current supplied to the electromagnets, increasing the coupling between the drive shaft and the cage and increasing the angular velocity of the
30 output. In this manner, the load is accelerated whilst the synchronous motor is never over-loaded.

In this embodiment, the acceleration continues until the angular velocities of the drive shaft and the cage are as close as possible except for the inevitable slight "slipping" of the magnetic brake.

5 By connecting a further system to the output shaft, or by using the output shaft itself, it is expected to effect magnetic braking for speed control or governing, or for the return of energy to an electrical accumulator system during a cycle of magnetic braking.

10 It will be understood that any driving source such as combustion or other motors can similarly benefit using this system so that the optimum speed for the source can be used. It may therefore be required that other forms of load sensing such as load cells be employed to obtain the feedback needed to control the amount of magnetic coupling needed.

15

The effect of biasing the output of a mechanical system would be easily achieved using this planetary gear as outlined in this patent. One driving motor would provide the D.C. bias or constant component of the output drive while another could be attached to one of the other elements of the gear and add or subtract from the
20 angular velocity of the output. Indeed, the variable speed motor drive as outlined above is an example of such a biasing system if the magnetic brake is considered as a form of electric motor.

Heterodyning of the two varying input angular velocities to produce one varying
25 output angular velocity could be easily achieved by controlling both input velocities by means of separate motors. This could produce a cyclical "beating" effect in the output of the system, or a less cyclical output, depending upon the harmonic components of the inputs.

30 The planetary gear shown in FIG 1 and FIG 2 provides for one set of rollers (7) and one cam but there is the ability to equalize and balance the gear for smoother and

more powerful operation by the addition of one (or more) sets of cams (3) and rollers (7) which may also be used within the same outer body or bodies (5) and scallops (9). The increase in surface to surface contact thereby gained is expected to be an advantage in both high speed or low speed requirements. The cams could
5 be related to each other at any angle within 0 to 360° of each other to provide maximum efficiency.

Multiplication of the gear ratios can also be added to the previously mentioned ratios, with the addition of a second cage (6) and a second set of rollers (7). The
10 cage would be directly connected to the second cam (3) thus providing a multiplication of 1:64 ratio in the examples shown in FIG 1 and FIG 2 and can be designed to be used at the same time as any of the other ratios. The rollers (7) may be tapered as may also the outer body scallops (9) in order to allow for wear or reduce noise, spring loading could also be combined.

15

Another application is seen in a windmill which can be efficiently operated with a greater range of wind speeds than windmills with similar output powers. The windmill has two turbines for the conversion of wind energy into rotational mechanical energy, one of the turbines being joined fixedly to the drive shaft of a
20 planetary gear assembly and the other turbine being joined fixedly to either the outer body or the cage of the planetary gear assembly. The rotational axes of the turbines are co-linear with the rotational axes of the drive shaft, the cage and the outer body of the planetary gear. The turbine connected to the drive shaft would be of substantially lesser diameter than the other turbine. An output shaft is
25 connected to either the cage or the outer body of the planetary gear assembly, whichever is not joined to the larger turbine.

In one embodiment of this system, the turbines would have pitches of their respective blades arranged so that, with a wind driving both turbines, the turbines
30 would counter-rotate. The larger of the turbines is joined fixedly to the outer body of a planetary gear assembly which is of a type whose outer body will rotate in the

same direction as the input shaft and can rotate when its cage is held still with respect to the ground.

5 In a light wind and with a loaded output, many windmills fail to turn because they cannot produce enough torque at their outputs to overcome the inertia and static friction within their loads and bearings of the turbines. In the windmill embodiment of the present invention, the planetary drive is designed so that its drive shaft has a large mechanical advantage over its output when its outer body is held stationary with respect to the ground. In a light wind the smaller turbine will begin to rotate
10 and the planetary gear will begin to apply torque to both the larger turbine and the output shaft. One or the other or both of the larger turbine and the output shaft will begin to rotate due to the torque thus applied. If the larger turbine rotates under the influence of this torque, it will rotate in the same direction as the smaller turbine, that is, in the opposite direction to which it would rotate under the influence of any
15 torque produced by the action of the wind on its blades. This will produce a braking effect on the larger turbine, slowing its rotation and in turn applying more torque to the output shaft. In very light winds this braking effect will not be enough to completely halt the backwards rotation of the larger turbine and the smaller turbine will therefore not be halted by the resistance of the load.

20

As the velocity of the wind increases, more torque is applied to the input shaft by the blades of the smaller turbine and more torque, in the opposite sense, is applied to the outer body by the blades of the larger turbine. At some wind velocity the torque on the larger turbine, produced by the action of the wind upon its oppositely
25 pitched blades, will be enough to cause it to stop or even begin to turn in the opposite sense to the rotation of the smaller turbine. The varying angular velocity of the larger turbine changes the ratio of the output shaft to input shaft rotation from 0:1 when the output shaft does not move to X:1 as the output shaft begins to move, where X is a continuous variable which can actually exceed 1.0 if the larger turbine
30 rotates quickly enough. Useful mechanical drive can be achieved with this windmill

over a large range of wind velocities as it can be designed such that the turbine to output mechanical ratio varies continuously as the velocity of the wind changes.

However, applying the well known advantage of simply contra-rotating two propellor blades using the cam output on this gear to provide an accelerated output could be used.

The prior art describes examples of using such a gearbox and there are several basic principles involved, within the variable speed drive. However, a secondary principle
10 can enhance this gear which is the ability to incorporate huge advantages through the inclusion of a harmonic hetro-dyning of the relative drives. To attempt to achieve, for example, standing waves, and a much higher efficiency, several different ways may be used, by choosing the best R.P.M. such as, for example, using a 6:1 ratio with the windmill gear ratio and combining a propellor design and size which will
15 match. Another way would be to incorporate a second driving motor as well as the magnetic brake previously described, then running it at the best speed to achieve as close to a standing wave effect of frequency as possible, likening it to having three motors.

In other embodiments, the magnetic brakes on the previously described magnetic
20 drive can be designed to drive at some suitable speed which would be calculated to suit, providing harmonic hetro-dyning or a biasing ability.

There are many different ways and applications that can incorporate this harmonic system in any of the applications.

25 Another application for this gear would be with the use of extremely versatile and accurate measuring systems where the multiple shaft turning can provide up to a three way measuring system providing three way torque curves - either manually operated, or computer controlled, stepping motors or simple reversing motors could
30 provide extreme accuracy combined with fast operation. In one method, by choosing motor operation, one motor could add and subtract acting like a biasing motor whilst

Another every day application for this gear is expected to be an everlasting, super efficient clutch for vehicles for example by accelerating the centre shaft providing a more efficient clutching action.

- 5 The concept of using the planetary drive in such a way that all three of its major elements, that is the input shaft, the cage and the outer body, is a cheap and compact way of bifurcating the angular motion of a system. Conversely it can also be used to combine the angular motions of two separate systems into one output. The distribution of the torque in the bifurcating system can accurately be controlled
- 10 through the use of clutching or braking systems to restrict the motion of one output and, in doing so, produce a greater or lesser torque at the other output. The clutch or brake can be configured to return inertial energy to the input so that it may be produced at the output at some later time.
- 15 Another application is expected to be the use of this gear for infinitely variable speed drives for vehicles such that the third output provides a balancing regenerative power source which can add to the driving motor power. Any of the three outputs can be used so that the energy can be stored in either a flywheel or combined with other useful power requirement such as generators or superchargers or similar. When the
- 20 vehicle is coming to a stop, the braking can propel this storing system automatically or manually. On acceleration, this stored energy is added to the main driving power. While stationary, the main motor may propel the stored energy system through the planetary drive because the brakes are on.
- 25 A simple coiled spring could be used in applications where only a short torque advantage is needed to, for example, give a load a kick-off.

Using the feedback or biasing ability, a lighter load may be lifted faster automatically and can be designed into a robotic ability to perform useful reactive actions as well as to bend the elbow of an arm as the load increases.

- 5 By design choices of gear ratios, input and output R.P.M. heterodyning could significantly increase the efficiency of not only the above drive but also many other simpler uses.

The main power source can be any type of engine, machine or manual power. The high efficiency achieved by this system would be particularly beneficial to battery or
10 solar powered systems.

There are many variables to the above system for magnetic control that would still come within the scope of this invention such as the use of metal filings suspended in a liquid or other medium used to actuate the clutch.

15

In yet another form of this invention, liquid polymers or similar may be used and may be controlled in any way to provide the above clutch action, such as changing their viscosity or density by varying voltage, current, temperature, centrifugal force, compression, or other molecular controlling means.

20

All the above described systems may be applied to any type of drive, motor, engine, machine, or manual operation.

In another form of this invention, exercising or body manipulatory or gymnasium
25 equipment could equalize loading requirements using this gear to more effectively provide proportional leverage, for equalizing, balancing and the reduction of size.

In one example, very heavy weights must at present be used to provide a certain inertia combined with loading and cannot be duplicated by compressing springs, etc,
30 whereas this gear could be used and in one method accelerate the cam drive

(which could be lifting a small adjustable weight, swinging a pendulum or governor) by manually levering the cage gear toward (or away) from the outer body of the gear.

Rowing action could also be duplicated by the above action which could even
5 have an impeller rotating in a container of water to simulate the sound and kinetic effect.

In another form of this invention, gates, heavy lids, mattress, bed and patient lifting equipment can be manually levered apart at their pivot points providing extremely compact drives as there is great difficulty in providing power drives
10 to this type of equipment, equalising and supporting using one of the three components to act as reference, or by using a second cage. FIG 7, the outputs can be equally actuated.

The compact design of this planetary drive allows for a compact drive for
15 contra-rotating drives for fans, propellers. The ratio can be any of the three chosen ratios in most cases it is expected that the input from the driving motor would drive the cam and the two output propellers would be on the cage and outer body. The blades would be designed in such a way that balancing would automatically occur or, for example, a second cage could provide a reference
20 for equalising, see FIG 7, 11, 18.

The ability to store reactive energy within the windmill described on page 11 allows the increase of the duty cycle. Before the wind is strong enough to move the load, one propeller could force the other to gain momentum opposite
25 its normal rotation providing added torque the moment the wind increases to a point forcing the other blade to slow down. The option of contra-rotation to start, or when eventually the wind speed is reached, the ability to govern is also available.

This gear provides the ability to have a viable economic drive or a compact
30 contra-rotating drive. This gear can provide contra-rotating propellers in aircraft or can be fitted easily now to stop the problems of gyroscopic torque

reaction properties caused by 'prop-wash' which can cause the aircraft to roll.

Propellers on fans and any fluid passing equipment can be made more efficient with this gear either in variable speed mode or in its contra-rotating ability, not
5 only because contra-rotation is known to be more efficient in wind tunnel testing but because this drive can be made physically much smaller to restrict less of the fluid, gas or wind. High speeds and frequencies can be achieved because of the simple gear design.

10 Boat propellers can be made more compact and the varying of speed more easily achieved with this gear plus the gear has the ability to contra-rotate and balance automatically. If required the gear may be below the water level because of the ease of sealing this self-balancing propeller gear or, for example, a second cage
15 also be installed directly on the driving motor in order to reverse the drive if required, perhaps with the use of an optional friction clutch, single or double action which may also provide "forward, neutral, reverse" as well as providing either a reduction or a 1 to 1 ratio.

20 This gear has the ability to provide a number of advantages in mechanical operations, for example, such as relating one wheel to another for equalising torque or differential action, or where one multi-drive or motor is required, or for four wheel steering. Another use is the ability of fitting a clutch to manually over-ride a motor driven auto-pilot on a boat, and will also allow easier installation of
25 'add-on' auto-pilots themselves, as it is very difficult to find the space to fit a motor drive to the wheel on most vehicles. The added ability of being able to manufacture from non-corrosive materials in sea air equipment is a major advantage.

30 Another application of the gear with two contra-rotating elements with different angular speeds is in the dispersion of fluids as spray for purposes such as crop spraying. The cage and the outer body could be caused to rotate contrary-wise

each with a turbine attached. Fluid could be forced out through nozzles, which exit the gear between the two turbines. The turbulence created between the two turbines would be used to atomize and finely distribute the fluid before it is ejected from the region of the turbine toward its target, producing a more even coverage of the target with the fluid than is possible now.

Any contra-rotating machinery requiring the passage of fluid or other substance to activate and control the speed of the drive outputs can be fed into a central hole or orifice within the center shaft. The orifice may be coupled to internal grooving within the gear in order to distribute fluid directly around the contra-rotating output vents in order to spray crops or equalize spreading or spraying of substances. Alternatively, a fluid hole may pass right through the gear in order to transfer the substance.

The ability to provide multiple integrated drives for example on ride-on mowers, the 6:1 ratio and 7:1 ratios could drive two contra-rotating cutting blades, plus the wheels could be driven at, for example, 36:1, all from one gear unit directly mounted on and connected to the motor shaft.

The variable (or fixed) speed gear is a self-contained three dimensional, geared drive, with controllable ratios and built-in "no load" start or clutch with automatic sensing if required.

Compared to existing gearing systems the variable speed (or fixed speed) gear will give the following benefits:

- Extremely efficient - up to 98%.
- Low friction with low wear.
- Easily mounted as it does not need critical driving or driven mounting supports.

- Can also be made of various materials such as plastics, ceramics, self lubricating materials, brass, bronze, inert tantalum, sintered steels or alloys, almost any material, and almost any manufacturing process such as cast, laser cut, machined. The designs can be very complimentary to be used with
5 advanced technology in materials and manufacturing.
- Can be made in varying sizes to suit many situations.
- Can be completely sealed for medical or underwater use.
- Some designs only about 1/4 the size of others.
Can be controlled in many ways to provide a variable speed much more
10 efficiently than conventional methods of trying to accelerate a loaded motor up from a stopped position. The driving motor can be up to full speed, before the load is applied.
- Has an in-built ability similar to doubling leverage.
- 15 - Has a feedback option.
- Has a freewheeling option.

Yet further applications of the present invention include:

20 **AUTOMOTIVE**

Variable speed gears could greatly simplify the present automatic gearbox. With the use of an electronic control (or other variable control) will enable smooth acceleration from motors with barely any perception of gear change.

25 **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL**

Any system having high start up torque at low angular velocity will benefit from this variable speed drive.

An example here is the lift industry. Currently thousands of dollars are being spent on elaborate speed controls in many cases even requiring special motors designed specifically for the purpose of smoothly driving lifts. Smaller motors could be used in conjunction with this variable speed control either with an electronic type of control, or various other types of variable control. This would mean costs would be dramatically cut and still maintain smooth control of the drive system of the lift.

AERONAUTICAL

Smaller more efficient gearing would reduce weight and reduce friction in drive trains for aeronautical mechanicals. Vibration would be improved as well. Helicopter engine gearing would benefit substantially from this variable speed gear. Lightweight and maximum efficiency would benefit the space industry.

MEDICAL

Implantable orthopedic prosthesis could incorporate miniaturised variable speed gears, ie. for skeletal movement in joint replacement. Materials could be inert tantalum, and together with a sealed gear would enable efficient performance.

MARINE

Gearing boat engines that give high torque could be easily met by the variable speed gear resulting in smaller size and better control. Small outboard motors through to big diesel engines would benefit with improved performance and reduced vibration and better frictional co-efficiencies.

INDUSTRIAL

Any system employing the variable speed gear would benefit from extra strength, especially in start up, high torque situations, and with ongoing efficiency and energy conservation. Low maintenance and lower manufacturing costs are other benefits.

DOMESTIC

Domestic products that are petrol, diesel or electrically driven would all benefit, particularly in the ecological area with the ongoing efficiency resulting in reduced energy consumption.

AGRICULTURAL

- 5 Reduced cost of manufacture, improved efficiency and reduced energy usage are all benefits offered by the present invention.

ROBOTICS.

Reactive touch sensitive control for robotics is possible by using the present invention..

10

ADVANTAGES OF USING THE GEAR

The multiple geared motors FIG 4, can either be fully self-contained or able to be integrated with external rotational forces, in some instances may be combined within, for example, a combustion motor (or other rotational source)
15 crankcase and/or sharing the same shaft and /or lubrication Fig 7,8,10. Alternatively it may support the wheel (or load). Some optional additional design features follow on page 22 - 23.

FIG 9 shows a system for simulation and a method for choosing complimentary designs or for the manufacturing requirements for the rotational forces..

- 20 Integration of this gear with alternative, for example, hydraulics drive systems can overcome common overheating problems. The same integration can apply to the following train designs as optional alternatives.

1. Trains often use multiple electric (or diesel) motors, these motors can be allowed to come up to any optimum speed (or synchronous speed) before the load is
25 applied.
2. The freewheeling ability of this gear can allow the motors to switch off when not driving. Power savings alone, perhaps over 70% or more should be possible if multiple motors are switched off.
3. The ability to retain an added braking system when switched off can be retained,
30 if needed, by double acting magnetic brakes. This provides safer transport.
4. The gear provides integration with optional automatic load sharing or load distribution.

5. The present invention complements existing magnetic brake systems.
6. The present invention allows for the direct replacement of existing traction drives.
7. The present invention can be operated by electronic or manual control
5 including handles, levers or push buttons.

Additional features of the present invention will now be described. These following pages, to page 24 line 6, describing optional manufacturing method of achieving the various choices of manufacturing some of the relevant designs, however there are many other variations such as described in this patent
10 and the following drawings, Fig 1 to 18.

Electronic, Hydraulic or Molecular control offers design flexibility.

Either electric motors or hydraulic motors or a molecular coupling system could be used to control the gear ratio mechanism. The most efficient power to weight ratio could be attained if the machine already has a hydraulic system. Single or dual or
15 more electric motors could be used to control, bias and drive the heterodyne gear. Internal or external magnetic controls could also be used to bias the gearing.

The motor may not have any active parts rotating. Only the magnets rotate offering the benefit of no rotating connections to cause power loss from the output drive through friction. There is no power losses from frictional couplings of electrical
20 parts. There is also the option of having coils rotating.

Few moving parts results in lower drag, within the gear. Therefore, minimal power is lost to friction and heat. It is possible for only one part to rotate within each motor, however refer to the multi-rotor motors fixed to multi gear shafts for huge efficiencies. Within the gear there can be few moving parts, however the ability to
25 integrate, contra-rotate and parrallel up motors is seen as extremely beneficial, especially if the entire motor may supported on a common shaft within the electric motor (Refer to Fig's 3 to 18 herein) with internal gear (EMIG), thereby reducing internal drag. Reducing drag internally reduces the heat generation within the EMIG. This allows the EMIG body to be manufactured from lighter materials
30 (which usually do not have good heat transfer characteristics). Less mechanical parts meshing, results in less power loss within the gear.

It is possible to spin up the two (or more) motors at opposing high frequencies without the output drive moving, then control the frequency of motor (or motors). The resulting output from the heterodyning gear (which is mixing these two frequencies) will be to produce a low frequency, high torque force at the output drive shaft. A
5 physically smaller gear has less weight.

There is one major limitation of 99% of all electric motors. Inherently electric coils have a small delay time from the moment when power is applied to when the magnetic force is delivered. This small time is constant (only dependent on
10 temperature) but at a specific R.P.M. will equate to 1° of rotation. Therefore, maximum efficiency can only be attained at one R.P.M. All other R.P.M's are not as efficient. The microprocessor control possible with the present invention can move the pulse timing anywhere, and could easily track the most efficient angle relative to the current R.P.M. Microprocessor control increases the power
15 efficiency resulting in less wasted power within the gear.

Since our microprocessor has total control of the switching times (phase angle) of each pole, (as per above) whilst regenerative braking the microprocessor can track the most efficient timing depending on the R.P.M. to produce the maximum
20 power out of the gear and will stop the output drive as fast as possible. Auxiliary brakes can thus be downgraded, again reducing the overall weight of the product.

There is no need for a clutch within this unit thereby reducing weight and wasted
25 power within the gear whilst interrupting the drive mechanism.

Since the gear is infinitely variable the output drive can be accelerated from stop to any speed smoothly.

30 Several aspects of this motor have improved the power efficiency of this motor-gearbox, thereby reducing the need for a large size. There is less power loss from not having frictional couplings of electrical parts or mechanical meshing of gears or

clutch. Also there is a power gain from a more efficient control of the electric motors in acceleration and braking. There is less heat generated inside this gear and so requires less cooling. All of those factors allow the gear to have a smaller size which then has more surface area per kg, thereby increasing the cooling effect per kg and thus reducing the weight of the cooling systems and the overall size requirement. Reduced size is reduced weight for the same power output.

Further discussion on certain prior art and the improvements thereto offered by the present invention will now be detailed.

10

Another advantage is a computer simulation programme for the CNC machining of scallops so that the fan rotation direction will change the normally symmetrical shape of the scallops to allow for the directional and/or dynamic momentum wear.

Another advantage of the present invention is the higher ratio provided, as illustrated by the multifunction cage in FIG 6 which has a cam integrated on its back for the next stage of rollers, the ten scallops by two sets of nine rollers giving a 81:1 ratio within the same body. If the same is duplicated with, for example, eight scallops and seven rollers, all on the same shaft, a lower ratio is provided. The compound contra-rotating action offered by the present invention should find use as FOUR WHEEL STEERING (FIG 5) for vehicles (ie, if the rear wheels require a lesser turning circle), or for power assisted steering or even to equally turn the wheels for a vehicle to go sideways or for angular parking or similar. The gear can be conveniently supported by the outer body. Of course, just a simple single reduction would be necessary if it is used as steering or equaliser for invalid mobiles, ride-on mowers or similar smaller-type vehicles. If necessary, vehicles such as trucks may require different ratios for wheels to turn in the same direction. The four wheel steering or sideways motion, can be for any type of vehicle, and further the planetary drives can be remotely controlled together with auxiliary motors driving the wheels of trailers or similar.

The present invention finds application in electric motors and electric motor design which can provide motors as shown in FIG 4 to be tested by simulation (FIG 9).

5 The present invention improves the action of magnetic clutches; improves regenerative feedback through application of the contra-rotational shaft with the outer body; integrates, sums and subtracts rotational forces; has the ability to produce and vary any required rotational force which results from integrating varying input rotational forces independently accelerated in a method suitable to optimise their design.

10 **FANS** A prior art Fan Company's publication claims contra-rotational exerts up to 2.5 to 3 times more pressure in a wind tunnel. In order to achieve the most relevant speed to the fan industry, it is necessary to start a load efficiently as near to a 2 to 1 ratio so as to have sufficient R.P.M. when using standard 50 cps motors. The present gear invention now makes this possible by at the same time also
15 substantially reducing wing tip noise (FIGS 3, 4 and 7). It may be possible to contra-rotate propellers on the end of a motor using fluid flow to balance them with our planned propeller designs.

The contra-rotation also has applications in the propulsion of any land or sea craft
20 and aircraft. (FIG 3 4 and 7)

Previously, such action was considered too costly. However, because of the optional roller design of the present invention which provides a choice to use only one (or more of each) rotating discs to combine and contain, for example, a planetary cage, a motor rotor, or set of coils, an outer body for the next stage, a row of magnets, and, for
25 example, a cam (star) for another stage, such that advanced features are more economically viable.

This invention also provides a device to provide or include a type of biasing, ramping up or fast acting rotational energy storage mechanism which allows optimum torque
30 to be gained by any internal or external rotational force when stepping through discreet gear systems.

By arranging at least a second roller (FIG 3) cage in a 90 to 120 degree angle to the first roller cage, it therefore also requires at least a second cam to be at 120 to 180 degree to the first. Fitting rollers which will allow the compact movement has also been overcome by providing a step along their length so as to pass over the
5 adjacent cam and thereby allowing for the option of a tension spring to control end play and also provide an optional wear reduction feature by tapering (for example) the outer body when machining the scallops.

The rollers also all move in the same direction as the surface they are in contact
10 with.

Four Wheel Steering

Transmission in FIG 6 is bolted to the chassis in order to provide contra-rotating outputs.

There further being the ability at the same time to provide a lower ratio (or higher ratio) which could be used to activate other features automatically such as altering caster or
15 camber at the same time at a complimentary ratio, or perhaps as the wheel turns, things like the body of the whole vehicle can be tilted automatically without even using electronic control.

The above actions (reactions) would be like the touch sensitivity referred to in my Provisional Patent such as the slope on the road requiring heavier or lighter steering due to say the camber needing greater force or perhaps the feedback from greater tilt of the
20 vehicle.

Also robotics have the ability to say bend an "elbow" automatically when the load exceeds a chosen weight, or a load can be allowed to be lifted at half the speed simply by the feedback.

Not unlike the tendons in our own body, however the body of this gear would not be
25 fixed from turning when applied to the "elbow" type of operation, and could be also referencing some other point even in some similar vehicle steering designs.

5

10

The ability to provide a very high ratio and multiplication within the contra-rotating cages together with the ability to have the main input shaft turning in the same direction as the output shaft so that it is only necessary to have a simple extended range clutch on the feedback cage, in order to have a complete linear automatic transmission. See Fig 27A. Both wheels may be catered for as shown in the drawings.

20 The rotary compression ability by displacement by, for instance, designing the suitable shapes into the rollers/pegs/slides/ or similar, the length can be any suitable requirement to allow for travel of the "stroke". For example these may be like pistons, with the ability to interact with porting for the input and exhaust through the relative chosen part. The ability to have a stationary cage for these purposes is also convenient, which can allow for inlets and outlets - see Fig 7.

Combined transmissions able to linearly gear up to a 1 to 1 speed using clutches alone, or electronics in many variations, as described in this patent.

30 The design can incorporate hydro-static operation combined with internal or external accumulators. And can be totally performing as a geared, high powered transmission.

There is the ability to combine with any type of fuel or fuel cell, or work in a double or multiple power system providing regeneration advantages. For example

35

the first motor may be limited to the optimum fuel cell capacity whereas a second motor may provide high torque and other advantages herein described. There are many hybrid and high torque options such as those in the drawings herewith.

- 5 Most features described in these designs are feasible with the use of multiple cages designed to suit each requirement, however there are other optional ways described in this patent to produce linear and high torque transmissions.

10

- The range and efficiency of all powered machines can be likewise extended in the various methods that are described in this patent. Contra-rotation can be used as described to achieve extra torque efficiencies.

In many cases, the range provided by FUEL CELLS are dependent on their capacity which can be greatly extended by incorporating any of these ideas in this patent, such as -

- 20 An advanced drive can also be constructed, by placing a planetary gear assembly similar to that used in the simple Internal Combustion Hybrid design, thereby giving the system a higher efficiency by allowing a regenerative aspect. (This is on the basis that a hydrogen cell is not efficient at recharging at these conditions) For example the "E" Hydrogen type energy, would be greatly benefited if the fuel cell motor is driving into the input cam of a planetary gear, then, by using a regenerative feedback motor connected, in line, preferably, (which could be powered by a Li + Lithium Ion battery supply) to the outer body of the gear. (The output could be taken from the planetary gear cage.) This would provide many advantages as described herein, and would further provide a total transmission.
- 25
- 30 There is the option of the second output to the second wheel as well. Including a reverse gear.

- As described, the Gears can be made in various configurations, and the power transfer through the roller type gear can be enormous, particularly if the multiplication ratios are accessed. Many advanced materials may be incorporated and varied to suit each application. For example, there may be requirements for
- 35

high speed materials, or light weight, heat resistant, or combined steel and ceramics and so on. The ability to integrate the systems providing compound linear and/or high torque transmissions. The transmission may be totally enclosed, the easy mounting abilities for providing complete integration of multiple source inputs, combinations of machines are endless.

The roller can be any shape described as /ball/peanut/shaft/or pump actuator/ piston with built in con-rod, compressor). This compressor of course can be a multi-cylinder rotary compressor / engine, which is in progress of manufacture, and being designed with porting and timing at this moment. The ability to build in and laminate other compartments side by side to incorporate – Built in Gearing, Multiplication, Accumulators, Compressors, Rotary Combustion Engines. The added ability to provide additional gearing can have huge multiplication, if chosen, can provide complete, self contained multi-function, high powered machines. Revolutionary integrated devices can be made with all these operations on the same shaft/axes, at the same time combined with the ability to turn the outer body. The outer body can enclose everything such as pumping, generating, or connected to the wheel / load itself. Input and output can turn in the same direction and on one same axes, making possible all of the options for all the numerous methods described in this patent.

The ability to build in a stationary cage for entering and exiting the various fuels, or liquids is also described in the two cage drive for contra-rotating fans Fig 7, any chosen ratios can allow, for example, the output of the machine, taken from the outer body (or laminated outer bodies) or from a suitably dimensioned cage or cages.

It can further be designed to combine three dimensional types of reactive actions which not only feedback from its own actions, but as a result of, for example, a car rolling due to the road camber changing. The torque doubling feature is automatic to all operations, providing compensation for any slight frictional losses, which themselves are not there as the transmissions near optional 1 to 1 ratios.

HYDRAULICS

Hydraulics can be designed into the internals using methods such as pressure, pressure equalising, displacement, or vacuum. Hydraulics and gas are highly

complimentary to this drive, internal or external hydraulics is optional, as also with the optional hydraulic feedback control. In requirements where lubrication is not provided, or chosen by the use of ceramics or other suitable materials, it is extremely beneficial and complimentary to combine either internal or external hydraulic operation and/or control with the roller gear option of this patent. The ability of having linear drives or steps in ratios is also optional, hydraulic pumps should provide compatibility with this patent, in some cases these may only require modification to achieve the feedback sensing described in this patent.

10 The ability to use or combine advanced materials or such as ceramics is also unique.

In one example, the transmission can have the feedback cages for two loads on either side of the drive (transmission and/or hybrid drive), the whole assembly can optionally be supported by one shaft. Another example of compactness available by accessing the feedback available from this gear is, for example, a double-ended motor with a common shaft supporting the gears on both ends, which can have the feedback cages controlled, by electronics, hydraulics or any other above means such as centrifugal clutches or coiled springs and would provide a compact two wheel transmission.

The ability to combine added wheel spin control is also seen as a great advancement on the Patent 607822, 1987. This patent for the control of relative rotation speed over about 14% rotation of each other, has been assigned to me by the inventor who was awarded a bronze medal in Geneva.

Another advantage is the ability to allow the driving force/s to reach optimum chosen speed before the feedback is actuated (In one of many ways - see patent) to provide chosen rotational torque. The feedback has the ability to integrate rotational forces by directly sensing them and making the prearranged corrections directly or indirectly. Another advantage is the ability to run back and forth in any chosen method in order to access dynamic momentum to optimise or boost any action chosen, see page 2 of this patent.

35 This patent is extremely compatible with the latest developments such as with fuel cell technology, and can further revolutionise transport in every aspect.

This patent describes a three dimensional device which can provide everything from High Powered Linear Transmissions, for driving anything in a compact revolutionary way, accessing feedback through a simple new "pulley" system - to
5 supporting the passengers in a remarkably luxurious way by feeding back to this alignment correcting device. This device has the further unique ability to support some paraplegic people or invalids in an upright position, and also the number of listed uses shown in this document.

The device can control any mechanical load, using feedback from the load itself,
10 using some three dimensional variations. Due to the vast number of products able to be revolutionised by the strategic application of this device, this patent can be enormous.

Another application is lifting a load according to the weight, for example if another cage is added, the cage can be used to feedback from the lifting method used, for
15 example, a rope can have the reactive cage (or body) lever out a pulley which will cause the rope lifting the weight to be lifted at a more acute angle to cause the other side of the planetary pulley to change its relative lifting speed. This same action can be applied, for example to bicycle chain gearing.

It was when I saw a newspaper article of a resourceful man with a Geneva award-
20 winning differential invention, which included a very compact, versatile, planetary type operation, that I had success. I have, with his advice, taken and developed and enhanced this part of his invention and added multiple cages and feedback. The ability to equalise and balance is not hard to provide, such as using feedback from one to another component. However, the more intricate the requirements are, the
25 more the components need careful design. I searched for many years before I was able to find a way to manufacture the accurate machining parameters and computer details required. The device itself consists of only a few basic components which are similar to what has been in a bulky form in car transmissions for quite some time, though these toothed gears can't do some of the things that this type of gear
30 can do. For instance, this gear has the ability to have the outer body enclose everything turning in the same direction as the inside shaft allowing extremely

simple transmissions. These transmissions can further be totally integrated on one axis for example, for high torque linear transmissions. It wasn't until I met a person with exceptional expertise that I was able to produce the outer body alone. The next requirement was to find a way to duplicate the cages to provide the huge
5 multiplication needed, which can be conveniently available on relatively large input and output shafts. Any chosen sensitivity and the convenient relative rotation action of the parts are needed through the feedback (which need only be controlled from the first cage of multiple cages if required.) This means that by allowing the "common" outer body to float freely, any controlling rotational speed need only be controlled by
10 the first cage relative to the shaft. Such as having any motor or rotational power within the first stage, or outside of it. The feedback is at an extended range from the load.

There is the ability to have combined, integrated drives with any type of power source, and can even have, for example, the first section as a hydraulic pump which
15 can be controlling the output speed by controlling the flow, this can combine multiple cages if chosen using hydrostatic pumping of rotors instead of solid parts so that there is only liquid in the segments.

The people were immediately impressed with the cages being able to be contra-rotate and as well providing extremely high ratios, turning with the shaft and body in
20 the same direction making possible endless variations. As it developed the applications for this gear became extremely diverse. This unique gear has greatly impressed some professors I have shown it to. One said: "It is a new 'pulley' system. Another university professor has offered the supply of their revolutionary contra-rotating motor, which they previously couldn't find a use for one of its
25 characteristics. Another professor has offered his involvement. There are numerous Railways applications and mobility from micro to macro. There are many options, such as being able to access this simple transmission, with any type of rotational sources.

The biggest fan manufacturer in the world has given references. All that is needed is
30 for someone to say, "Yes, let's start making the most compact, yet advanced machines in the world, for everyone, and to create masses of employment.

The device has the ability to provide a very high ratio and multiplication within the contra-rotating cages together with the ability to have the main input shaft turning in the same direction as the output shaft so that it is only necessary to have a simple extended range clutch on the feedback cage, in order to have a complete linear
5 automatic transmission. See Fig 27A. Further, both wheels may be catered for as shown in the drawings.

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There is the ability to combine with any type of fuel or fuel cell, or work in a double or multiple power system providing regeneration advantages. For example, the first
20 motor may be limited to the optimum fuel cell capacity whereas a second motor may provide high torque and other advantages herein described. There are many hybrid and high torque options such as those in the drawings herewith. Most features described in these designs are feasible with the use of multiple cages designed to suit each requirement, however there are other optional ways describe in this patent to
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30 and laminate other compartments side by side to incorporate - Built in Gearing, Multiplication, Accumulators, Compressors, Rotary Combustion Engines. The

added ability to provide additional gearing can have huge multiplication, if chosen, can provide complete, self contained multi-function, high powered machines. Revolutionary integrated devices can be made with all these operations on the same shaft/axes, at the same time combined with the ability to turn the outer body. The
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Another advantage is the ability to allow the driving force/s to reach optimum chosen speed before the feedback is actuated (in one of many ways – see patent) to provide chosen rotational torque. The feedback has the ability to integrate rotational forces by directly sensing them and making the prearranged corrections directly or indirectly. Another advantage is the ability to run back and forth in any chosen method in order to access dynamic momentum to optimise or boost any action chosen, see page 2 of this patent.

This patent is extremely compatible with the latest developments such as with fuel cell technology, and can further revolutionise transport in every aspect.

Fig 30 shows a typical "body leaning" example which is a car with two multi-gears on the front and rear to control camber and castor. The feedback from the leaning over of the car is able to provide reactive correction so that the car cabin effectively leans into the corner together with the wheels which are able to have any camber/castor correction actuated automatically with the added ability to fine tune further corrections. All types of transport can be similarly benefited.

Fig 29 A shows the ability to provide equipment to correlate and reference positional holding using this inverse feedback. For example, a paraplegic person in an upright position, the gear can also simulate muscle and ligament movement. It is able to be optionally controlled by a gravitational sensor which could be at the high point of the spine. Robotics can similarly benefit.

Fig 29 B The enormous relative sensitivity due to the multiplied third dimensional feedback provides an extremely effective means of controlling the transmission. This drive is a typical example. The control housing may be rotating, providing many advantages in control and efficiency which are further able to control as shown with a generator of any type of eddy current device, or feedback motor, accessing any type of energy storage mechanism such as batteries, capacitor, flywheels, electronic control or any other chosen storage (refer to patent particularly page two.). It is further able to be driving both outputs for two wheels. Hybrid operation is also optional as shown driving onto the feedback controlling point, (pulley or chain) or similar,. There is also means of providing a kind of "yo-yo" action see patent.

The ability to optionally use lightweight and non-magnetic materials is very complimentary with this device, with the ability to produce low cost products such as using molded or sintered aluminum and steel. Motors designed with complimentary materials would be extremely lightweight such as pancake type or preferably the planned contra-rotating motors. Fig 15, 16, 17.

Fig 28 B shows one method of a self contained two wheel transmission, suitable for big or small requirements. The optional inclusion of hybrid and combined motive power together with a common axis for building robust integrated and self-supporting abilities can revolutionise big and small mobility. The high relative ratios available from the feedback at this point makes it possible to extremely accurately control the drive using any type of control, such as generators and eddy current regenerative components for returning energy at a later time. Many types of clutching for recoverable energy can be used, such as combining motor generators with the ability to drive as well to provide a reverse gear or regeneration requirements. Magnetic particles, polymers may also be combined with electronic control can be optionally used. The unit is shown encased, however it can be open and the centre engine can be a hybrid combination.

Fig 27B also shows a typical multiplication. For example six rollers per cage for five cages provides over six thousand to one ratio. See also fig 27 for optional designs.

Figure 28A shows the physical convenience and versatile capabilities, whilst able to all be mounted on one axis, combined with reactive feedback made possible by the torque doubling nature of this compact design, combined with the three dimensional operation in this way. It has the added ability and option to provide free wheeling. In this case by raising (for example) the top lever allows immediate manual control for emergency turning of the steering wheel. Non corrosive materials can be chosen for salt air conditions.

Fig 27A shows the compact nature of one very important optional design,. By having the input shaft turning in the same chosen direction as the output, together with any huge

multiplication ratio accessible by even simple methods, the required ratio can be obtained easily providing sensitive control, yet further maybe totally encapsulated by an optionally rotatable outer case provided by the outer body. Slip rings or brushless electronic couplings for rotating components can provide advanced operations. The added option to combine chosen features/ratios by "sandwiching", the outer bodies is able to combine other methods of lubrication/control/power sourcing See Fig 24A. All the different systems described in this patent can benefit including hydraulics. This system allows for easy integration of hybrid requirements all on the same axis, this is considered as a major advantage to together with accessing the other contra-rotating features described herein. Extremely low cost manufacturing is possible using molded or sintered metal technologies. However, the design can include stationary cages for in-letting or out-letting fuels, liquids. see Fig 7 and 27A.

Due to the inherent design of this gear, providing displacement can incorporate self-contained multi-cylinder rotary engines, oil-pumps and similar. Inlet and outlet ports can be designed to be where needed for the particular operation.

The ability is also there to use existing pumps accessing this third dimensional aspect by modification, for example, by modifying their body rotation as described in this patent.

Fig 26 Shows variety of the design and methods available to use the versatility of compact alternatives allowing for low cost manufacture and installation of power plant and/or replacement possibilities. Page 15 of the patent describes various methods of controlling, however the design could be extremely efficient and powerful if there already exists a hydraulic system.

It is of course possible to use any existing pump for controlling this power, (preferably between its shaft and cage) by allowing the outer body to revolve taking the output power from the cage. Further, in order to achieve the same multiplication extended range, by securing this pump outer body together with the shaft to any other type of planetary gear body (which is able to turn similarly in the same direction as the shaft, as shown in the roller gear, having one less roller than scallop) it will allow the output cage from the pump to drive the first cage of this described planetary action, this cage would have any means of driving and contra-rotating one or more following cages. The output taken from the last cage. This action could similarly be done using hydrostatic operation, or fluid pressure. See Fig 24 A

Fig 25 is showing one of the options and the ability to choose the direction of rotation, for driving in any chosen direction. This is a self-contained two wheel transmission, perhaps for a train.

Fig 24 refers to various options, however the ability to combine rotational forces is very easy, such as in putting the added hybrid input onto the clutching shaft, in this case the shaft going to the polymer control.

Fig 18 shows one method of obtaining the feedback referencing in order to contra-rotate any two other components equally such as in Fig7. However Fig 6 can provide high ratios if chosen, ref Fig 27A.

Fig 18 shows one method of obtaining referencing in order to contra-rotate any two other components such as in Fig 7, however Fig 6 can provide higher ratios as well, if required.

Woods Fans have published figures which show almost 2.7 to 3 times more efficiency for contra-rotating fans in a wind tunnel. This gear can provide lower noise, less wing tip speed,

contra-rotating fans in a wind tunnel. Not only can this gear provide this but it also reduces noise, less wing tip speed, using standard low cost, light weight motors, or various designs such as the use of these high efficiency low cost motors See Fig 14, with single or double-ended motor gears. Soft starting together with high torque options are available. The entire support structure required can be substantially reduced as well. There can be optionally self supporting gears with combined tunnel fluid guides see Fig 7.

Fig 17 shows other options, with the option to different ratios - together with the added ability to have the gear have either faster or slower cages within the outer body, in order to capture such things as controlling the relative speed of both wheels in order to apply spin control, or added clutching or braking.

The ability to only need to control the first stage in any way, providing this third dimensional, extended feedback, is absolutely ground braking, together with the option of having in line multiple integration of other sources of rotational power, i.e. engines/motors, regeneration together, with the ability to be all mounted on the same axis. Not only does this provide the potential for choosing any type of power sources but the added abilities of accessing enormous other regenerative systems such as described in pages 2,3, 4,14 15 etc. 14-11-97 of the provisional patent. And also "Wheels Within Wheels" 6-6-96.

Fig 15B, 16B, 27B, 29B illustrates some options, which really shows there are unlimited other possibilities. The further option of hydraulic integration is extremely complimentary with this gear, with any suitable existing pump able to be integrated by modification. If chosen, the ability to inlet and outlet liquids is able to be actuated, for example by a stationary cage, see Fig 7. This first controlling stage can have, for example, hydraulic valves and timing methods to operate rather than just rollers as shown. Because this is being used as a speed control, as by controlling the flow in any way, we only need to control the first cage relative to the shaft. Very accurate control can be available if required.

Hybrid inputs can be easily coupled in line as shown in Fig 24A, 27B, 29B and others. The addition of Fig 27A as shown in Fig 24A provides the feedback added multiplication available with the coupling to the rotatable pump. The ability to use the actual planetary drive to operate as a rotary piston engine is also greatly advantageous because of the inherent design, such as by allowing the outer-body to run free with this three dimensional feature, which can allow the combining and accessing of the feedback. The feedback planetary multiplication can be coupled to the body and can be operated for example, as shown in Fig, 24A, 27A, 29B. If required a stationary cage can be incorporated to inlet and outlet fluids, see Fig 7.

Other added rotational forces can be combined and coupled, by the relative rotation of the feedback as shown and the total transmission can be duplicated for driving both wheels, with the added ability to access added internal or external storage systems such as accumulators, or regeneration abilities.

High torque contra-rotating electric motors Fig 4, 14, 15, 16, 17 are seen as extremely efficient with one University searching for some way to implement and use their now

proven advantages. By starting up then varying their relative ratios in order to provide maximum torque, eventually reaching any optimum speed to suit the particular requirement. Except for the contra-rotating fans requirements this usually would be when all the rotors are all turning in the same direction, at which time, any possible wear is eliminated from the gear as they reach 1 to 1 ratios. This optional planetary type gear design can take advantage of this accessing even more efficiencies providing enormous power combined with optional hybrid design accessing the best of chosen power sources (also combines regenerative capabilities). See Fig 27A advanced methods described in this patent, pages 2,4,14,15 etc. Solar energy systems can be likewise benefited as also can fuel cell power sources, see patent page 27-30.

The inherent torque doubling nature of this gear can be captured by any chosen method, using hybrid designs and can further be designed to provide a means for the traveller returning home even though one source of energy has expired, or can provide non-polluting transport where needed.

Fig 16 shows optional methods of incorporating chosen advantages. The ability to have chosen multiplication such as in Fig 27A will be decided by the application torque requirements, also relating to the particular hybrid and regeneration systems chosen. The hybrid source could be input onto the feedback shown as the clutch drum, this drum can be part of the regenerative system accessing any other stored energy. The drum may be allowed to motor in order to provide regeneration or a reverse gear or a braking ability.

Fig 15 Variations such as cage or outer body output depending on choice, as also with the number of cages chosen. See Wheels Within Wheels items 3, 4, & 12.

Fig 14 shows one basic operation for the drives above, however optional contra-rotation abilities for devices such as fans can be achieved by varying the design. For example, by choosing either the cage or body as outputs where required, and also the relative number of rollers to scallops calculated for individual ratios and relative operation in both bodies, contra-rotation will be achieved. It is further able to integrate other rotational forces, and hybrid operation.

Fig 12 and Fig 5 illustrates methods of controlling steering and mobility functions for passengers and load. This can be for four wheel drive vehicles or more operations or for any type of mobile load correction (even three wheelers could be designed for leaning into corners). This is seen as a revolutionary step in total transport comfort and safety with enormous variables such as for every form of mobility. Any size of mobile is equally benefited, with the ability to provide totally new concepts. Safety and comfort combined with the optional use of highly efficient and non-polluting drives, if chosen, as above.

Fig 11 Other options.

Fig 9 Shows a typical simulation diagram for both designing methods for maximising the output from rotational input force/s, and also ongoing correction to maximising the

methods chosen. Or further combining two or more rotational speeds/sources through the gear, using variable source/s for correction in order to maximize and extend maximum linear (or high torque) acceleration from unequal forces. Also evaluating and accessing the power from other sources such as stored energy and regeneration described in page 2, 3, 14, 15 etc. of Provisional Patent from 14-11-97, also Provisional of 18-9-98 and Patent 25-5-99, page 2, 4, 14, 15 etc.

Fig 8 and 10. These show other artists concepts of optional methods for hybrid designs, mainly accessing the proposed high-torque electric motors, and coil spring variations. In practice, the designs could be manufactured in a more enclosed form, the coil springs can be more effective in the Fig 7 or part of Fig 6. However the ability to provide the multiplication option requires a combination of Fig 24A, 27A, 27B. The Hybrid input or rotational force, (such as motor generator) can be applied onto the feedback shown as a drum, with other great advantages as described above.

Fig 7 Is a versatile means of obtaining any relative ratios for actuating some of the above operations and can, by calculation can produce chosen relative ratios. Some of these features can be duplicated by other types of planetary gears, and further there are many variations to this design which may in some cases provide hydrostatic, cushioning, pumping or hydraulic variations. Refer to 27A. The main requirement to access this extended range, three dimensional feedback is that the first section of the controlling body can regulate the speed in any way. If chosen, the speed control on the first stage can be a rotating electric motor or controlled by eddy currents or any electro/mechanical means. Hydraulics can use internal porting and timing with any means of control.

CLAIMS

1. A variable ratio gearbox including the following components:
 - (a) an outer body
 - (b) at least one cage
 - 5 (c) a centre shaft

a first means between said centre shaft and said cage,

a second means between said cage and said outer body wherein upon rotation of said shaft, said cage, or said outer body at least one of the remaining said components (shaft, cage, or outer body) is caused to rotate and wherein variation of output of one

10 component being either said shaft, said cage or said outer body is controlled between zero and a maximum value corresponding to variation of the ratio of the angular velocity of the two other components (said shaft, cage, or outer body).
2. A variable ratio gearbox as claimed in claim 1 including a variable brake and wherein said variable brake includes a variable load means supported between two of
- 15 either said shaft, said cage and/or said outer body such that variation of a load between zero and a maximum value on one component corresponds to variation of the ratio of the angular velocity between the other components (said shaft, cage or outer body).
3. A variable ratio gearbox substantially as described herein with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings.
- 20 4. Any device substantially as described herein with reference to any one or more of the drawings, incorporating a variable ratio gearbox as described herein.

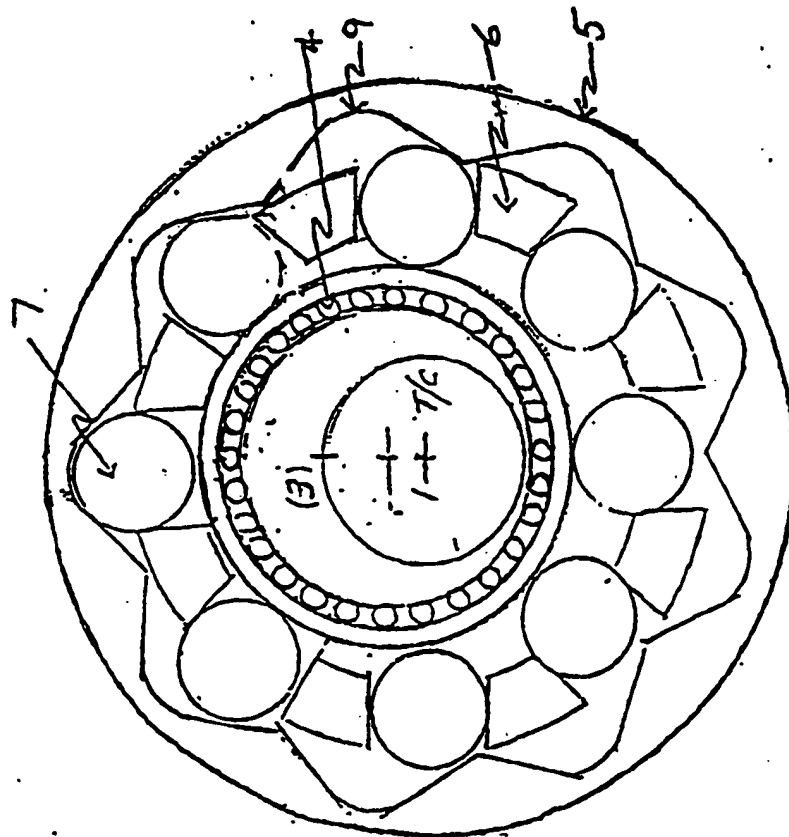


Fig 1

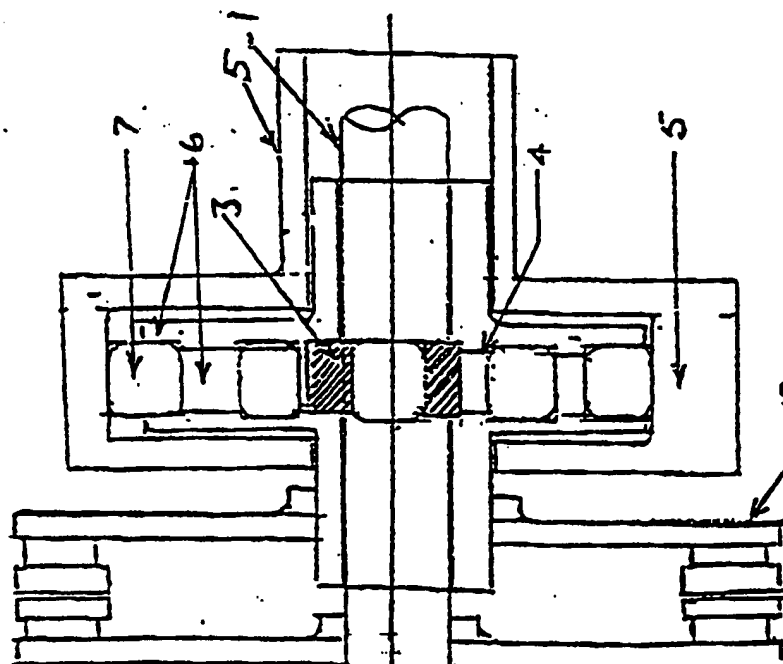
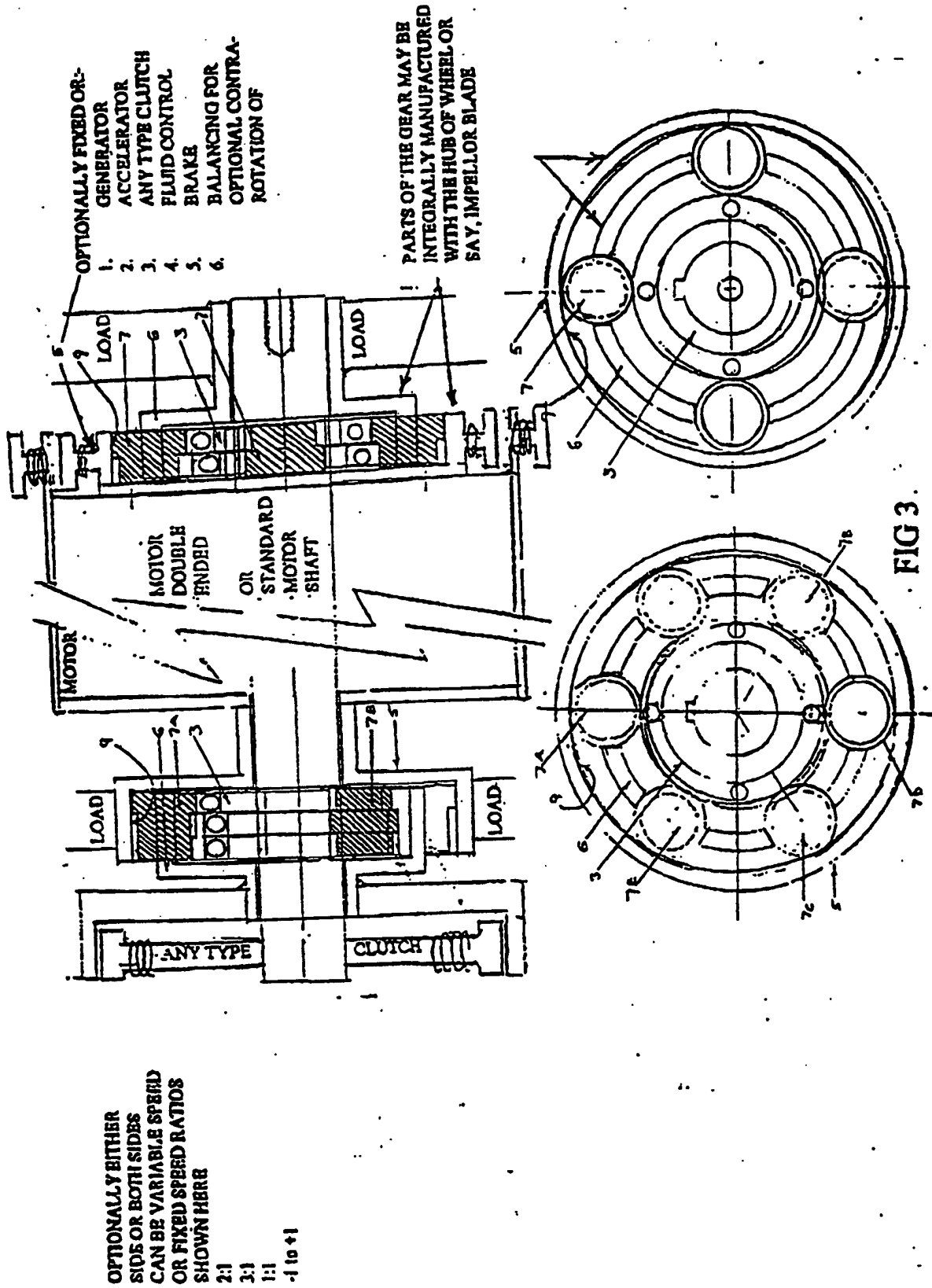


Fig 2



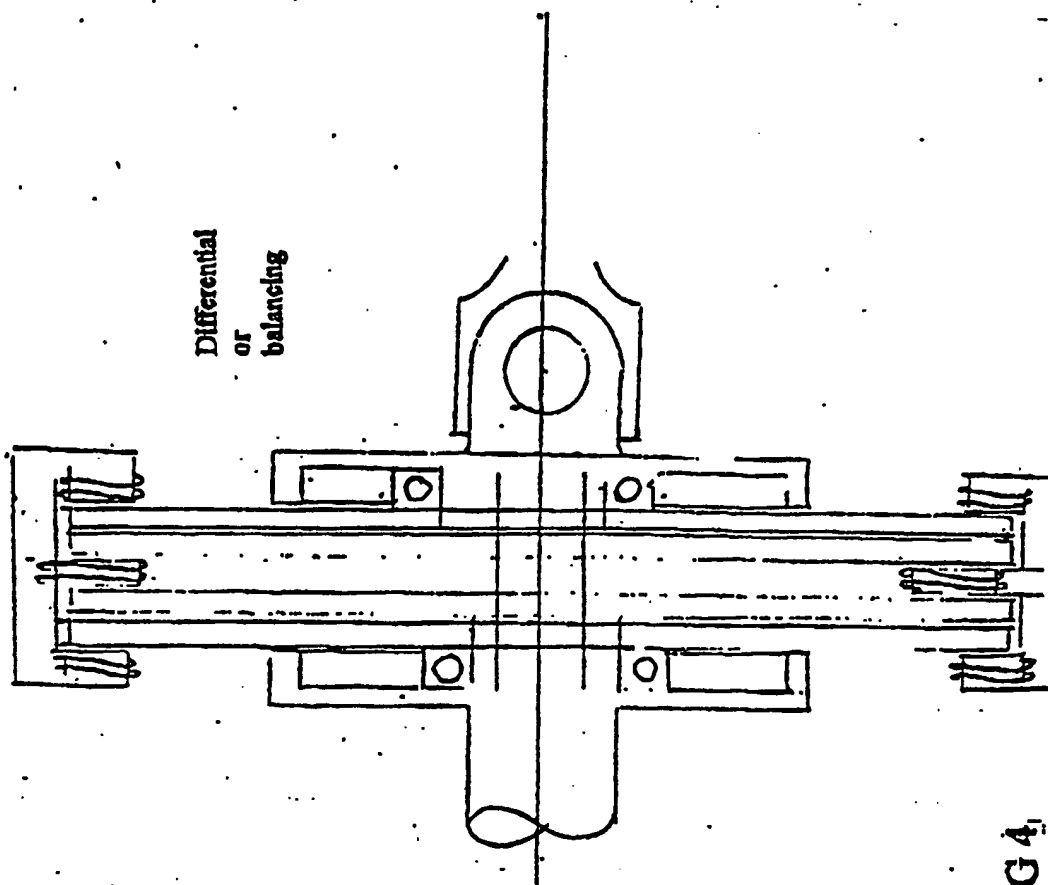


FIG 4

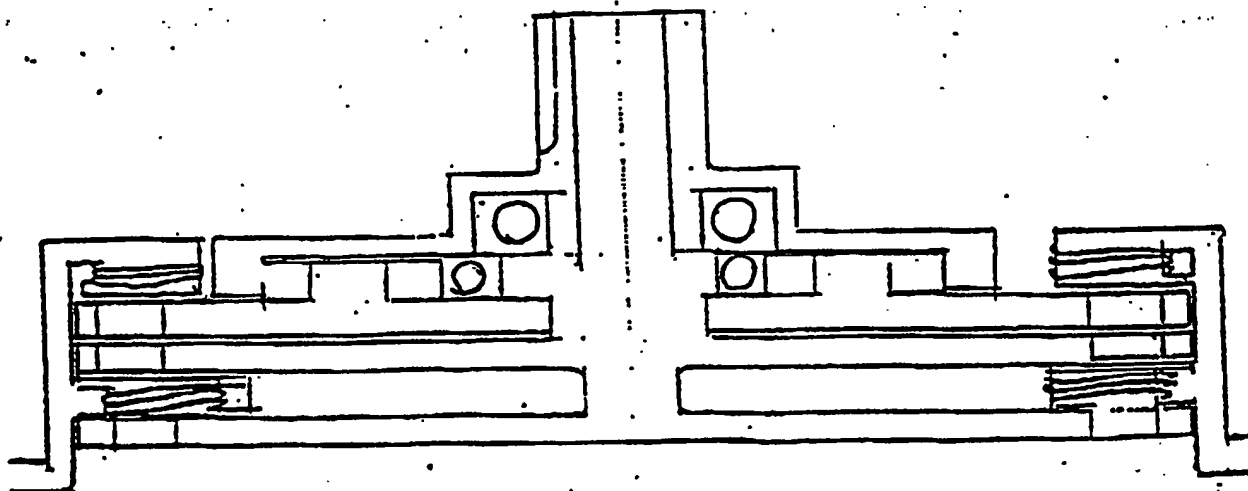
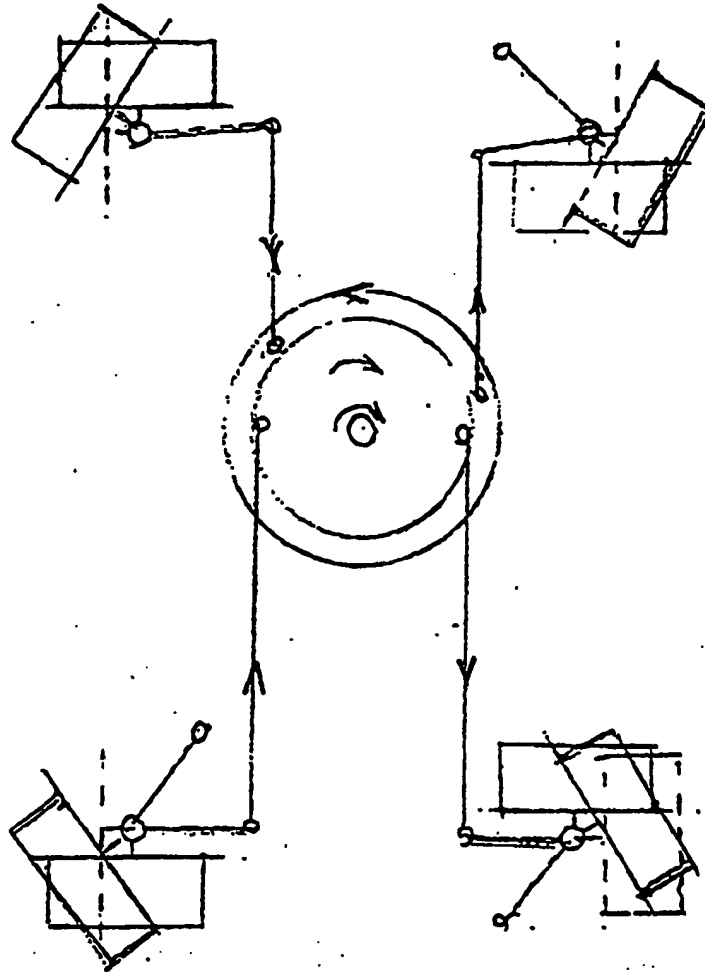
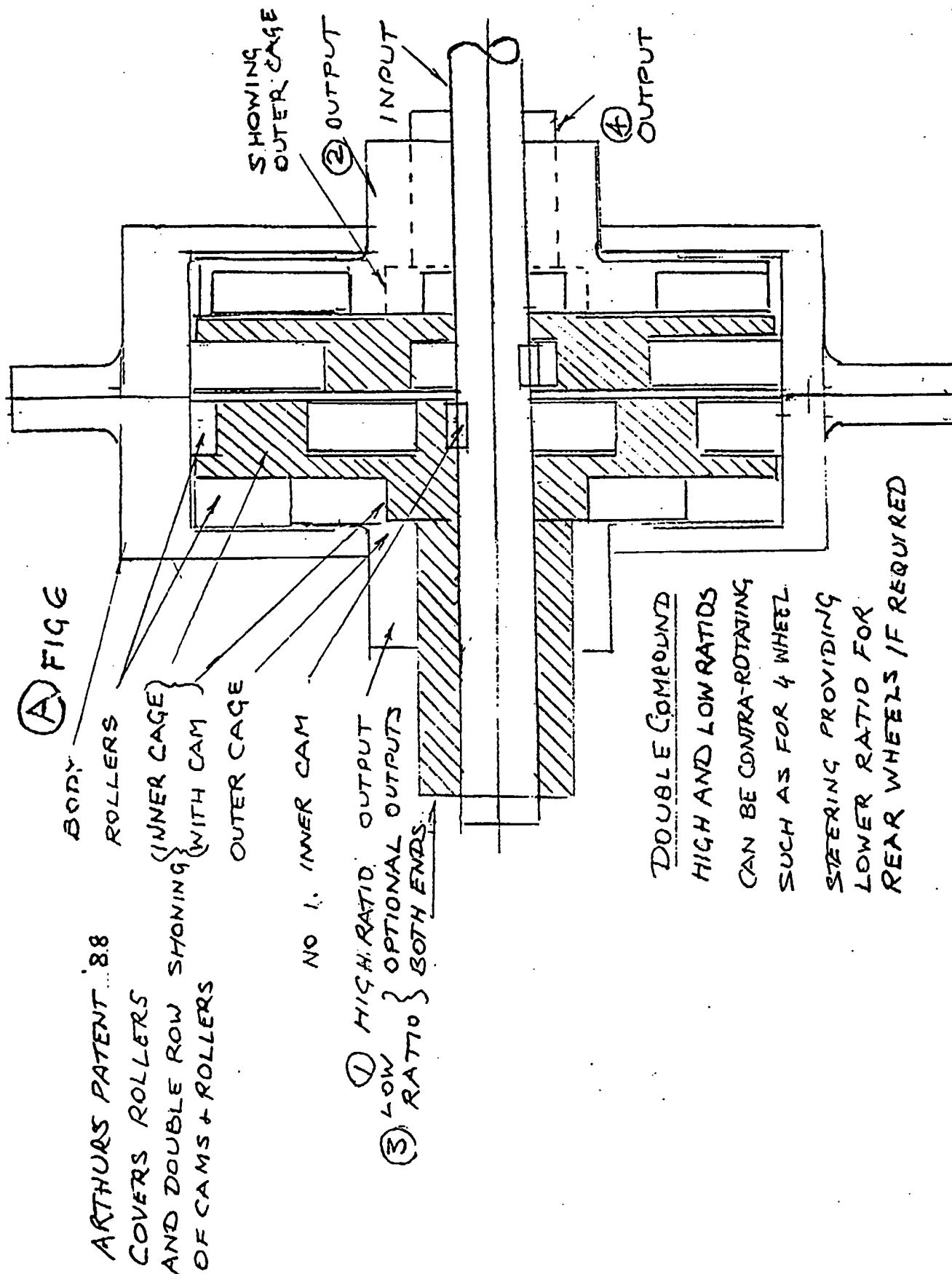


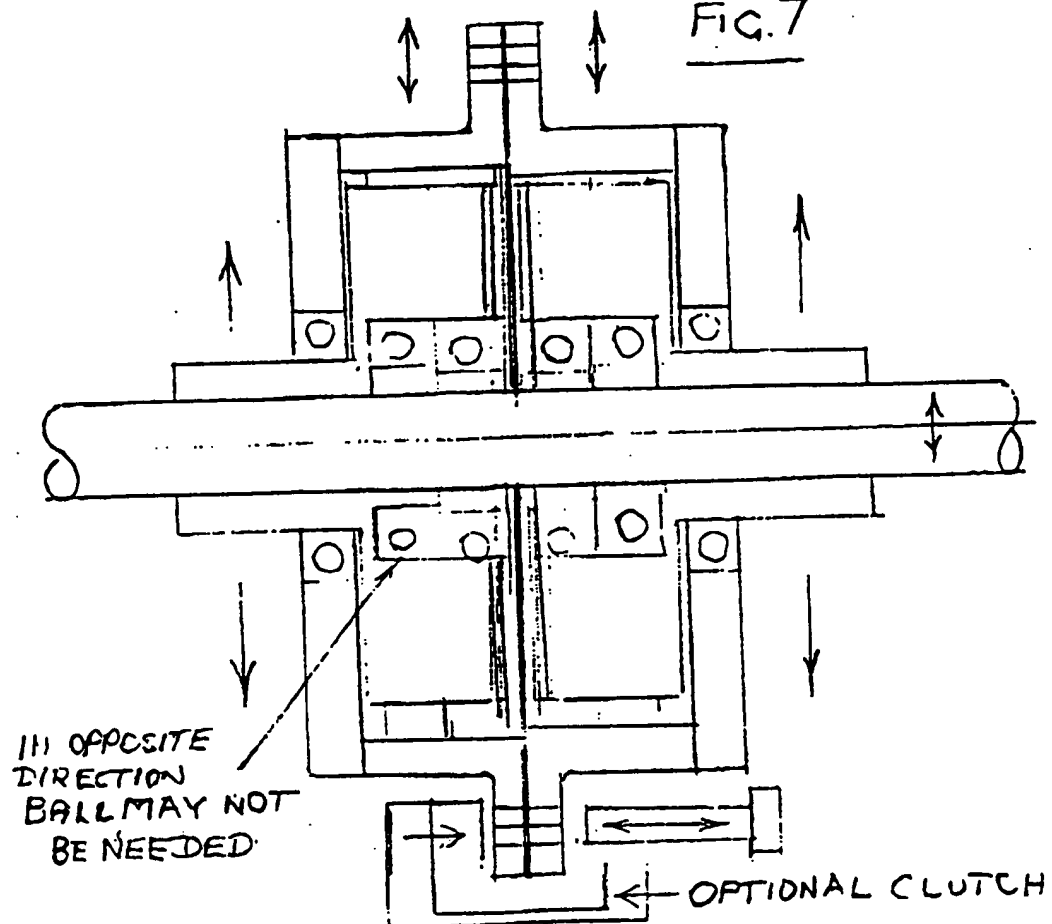
FIG 5





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FIG. 7



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(D) FIG 8

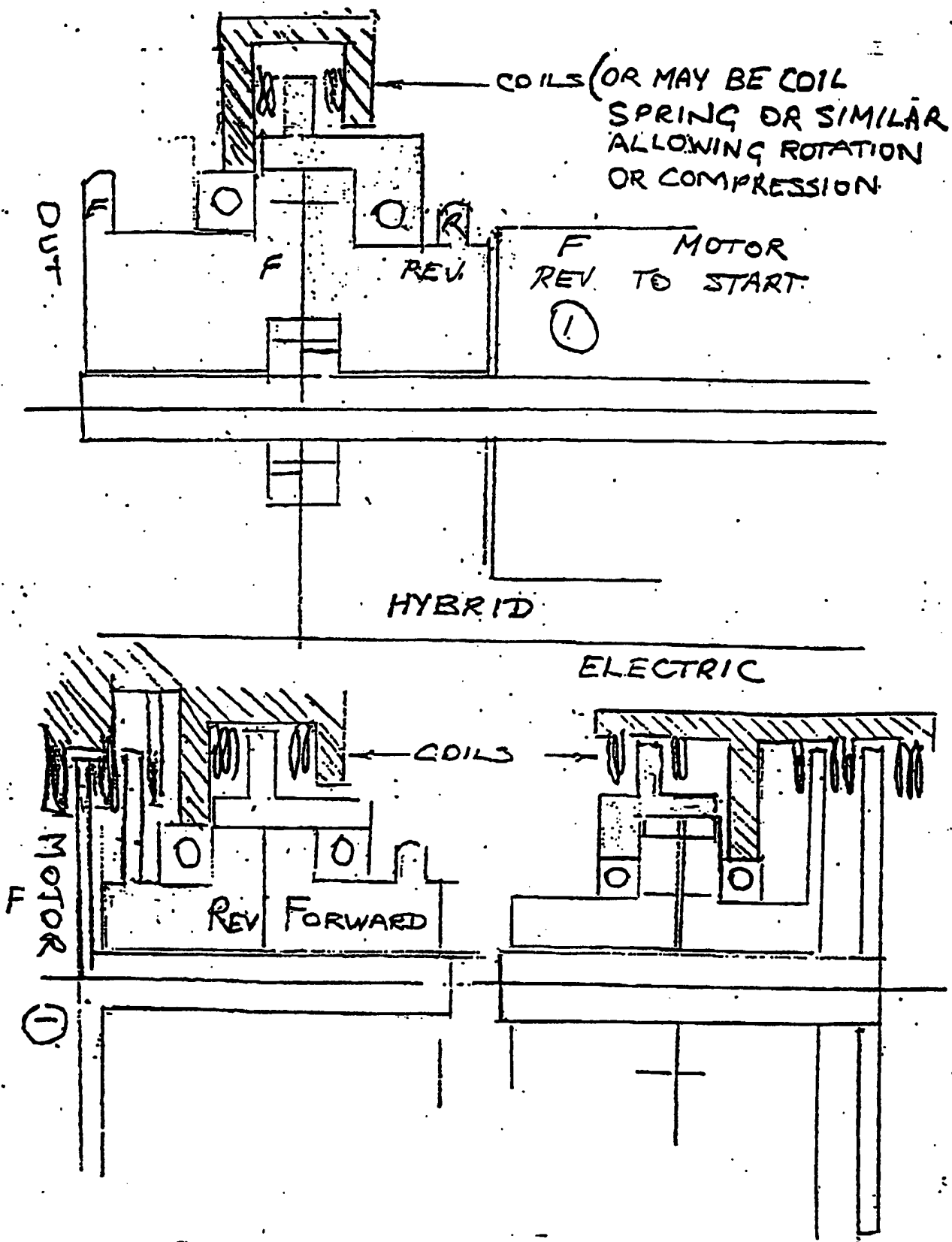
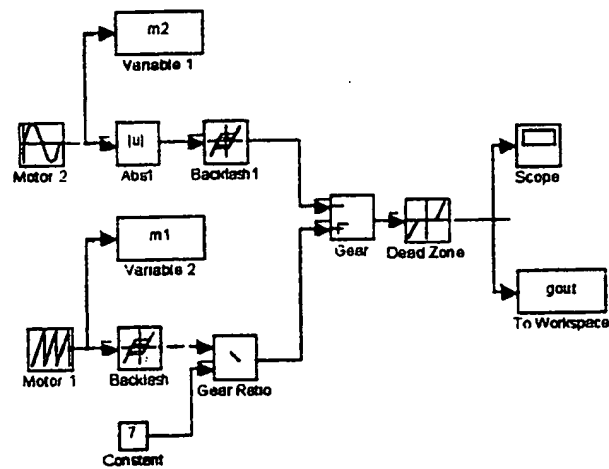
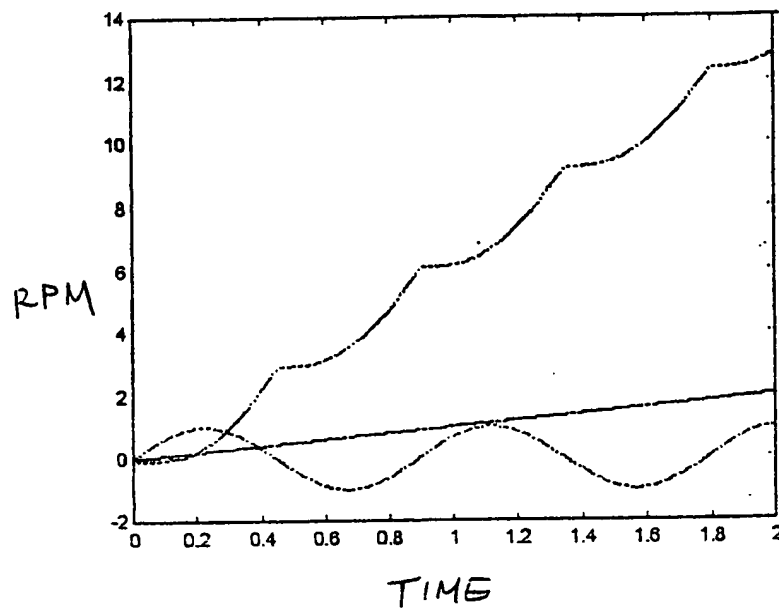
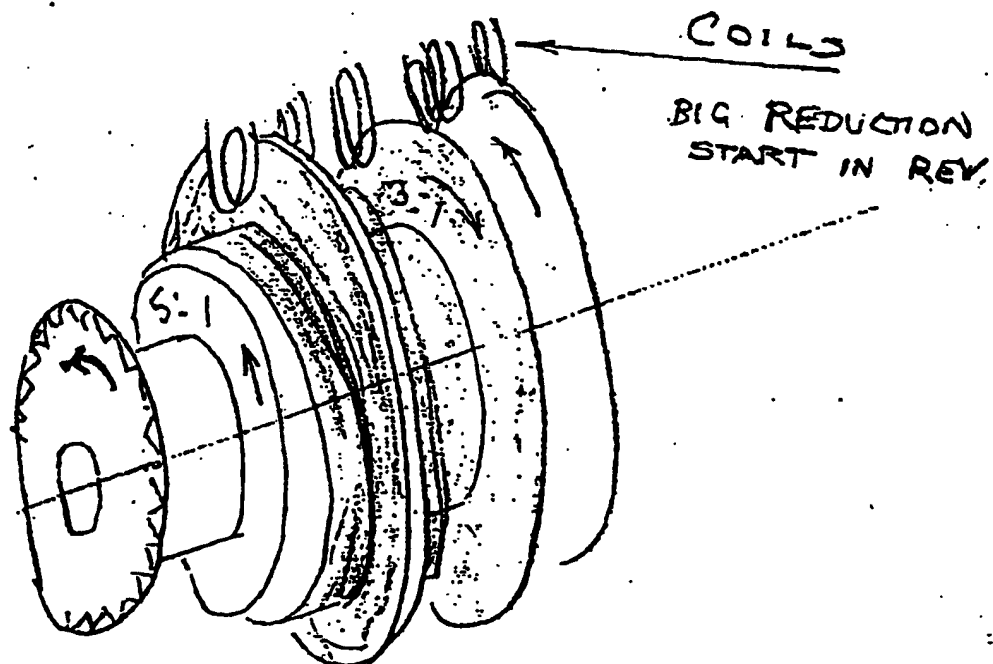
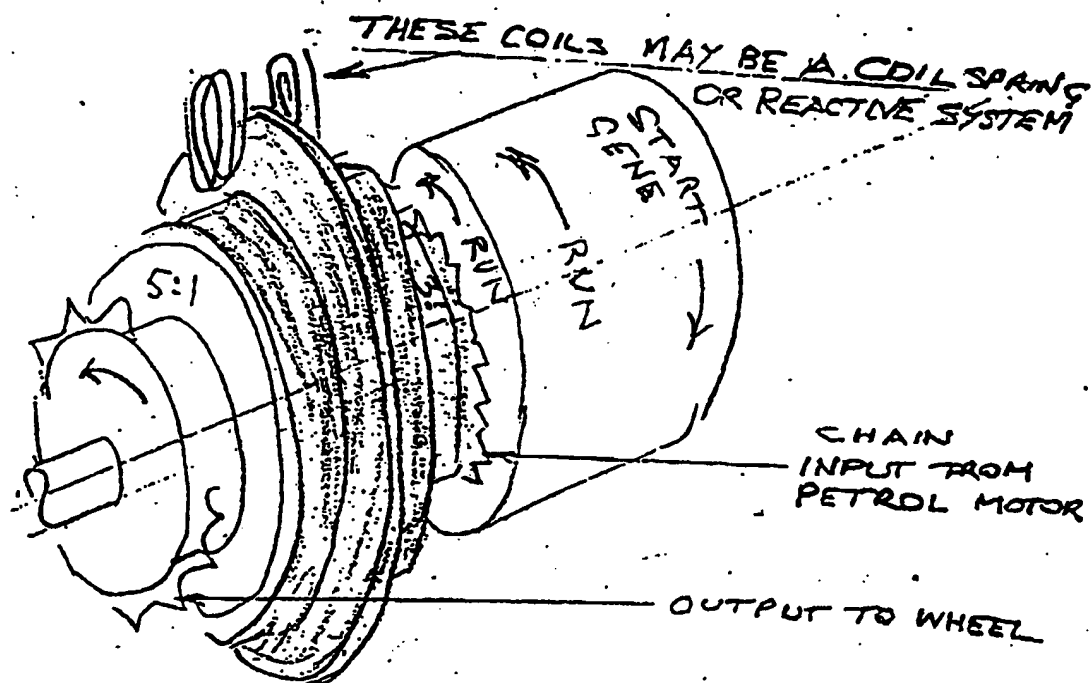


FIG 9.

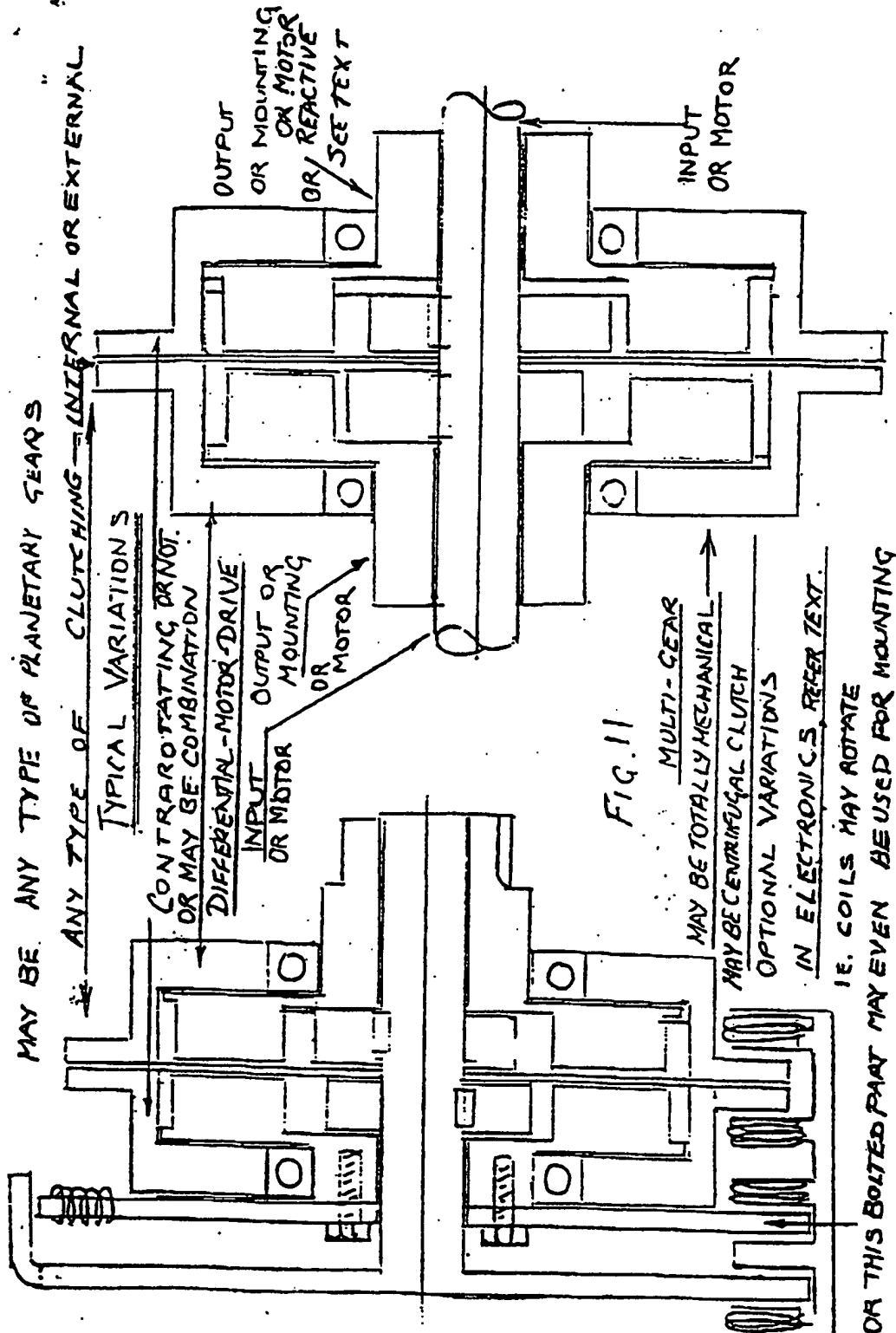


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FIG 10



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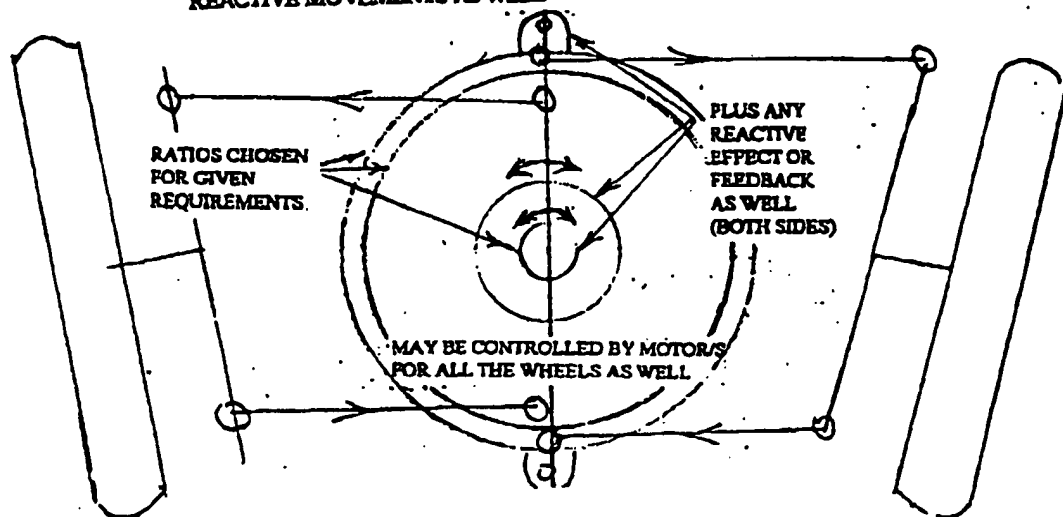


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FIG 12

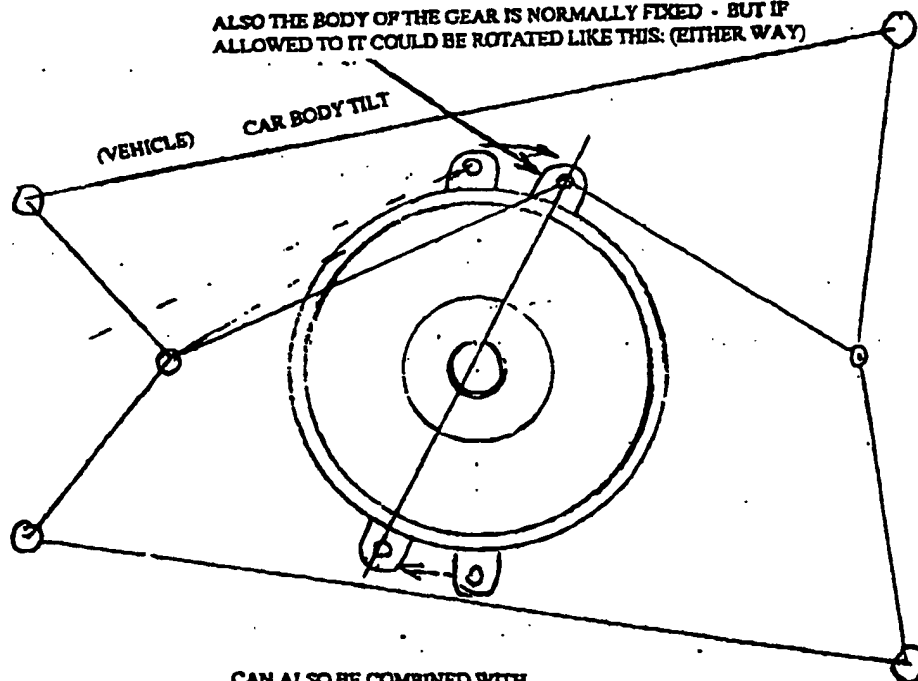
LIKE RIDING A MOTORCYCLE Malcolm Dean ©

ANY MOBILE ON LAND, SEA OR AIR, CAN PROVIDE PASSENGERS OR CARGO
THIS TILTING CAN BE DONE WITHOUT THE GEAR, HOWEVER THE DOUBLE
CONTRA-ROTATION CAN PROVIDE CONTINUOUS CORRECTION OR OTHER
REACTIVE MOVEMENTS AS WELL

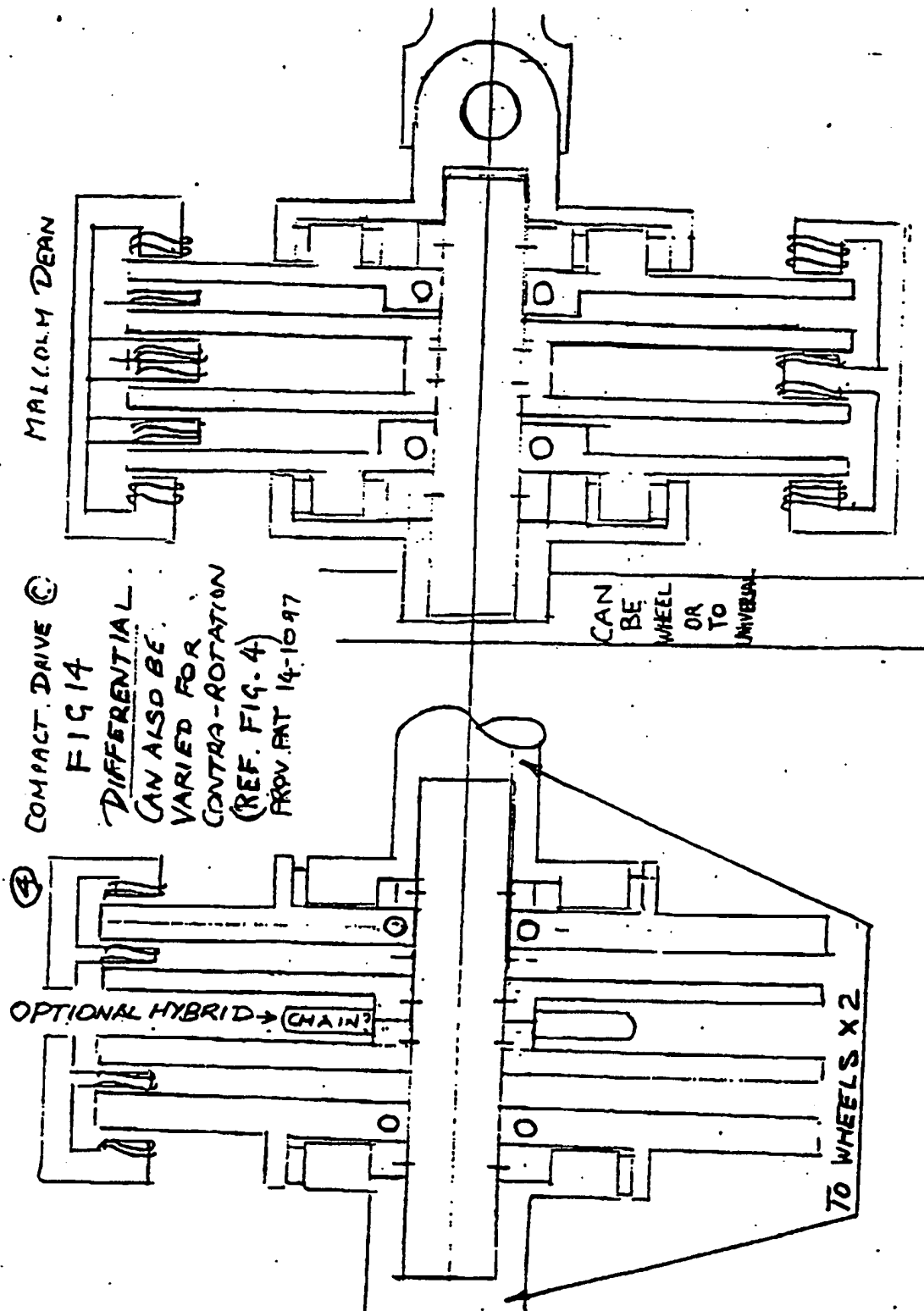


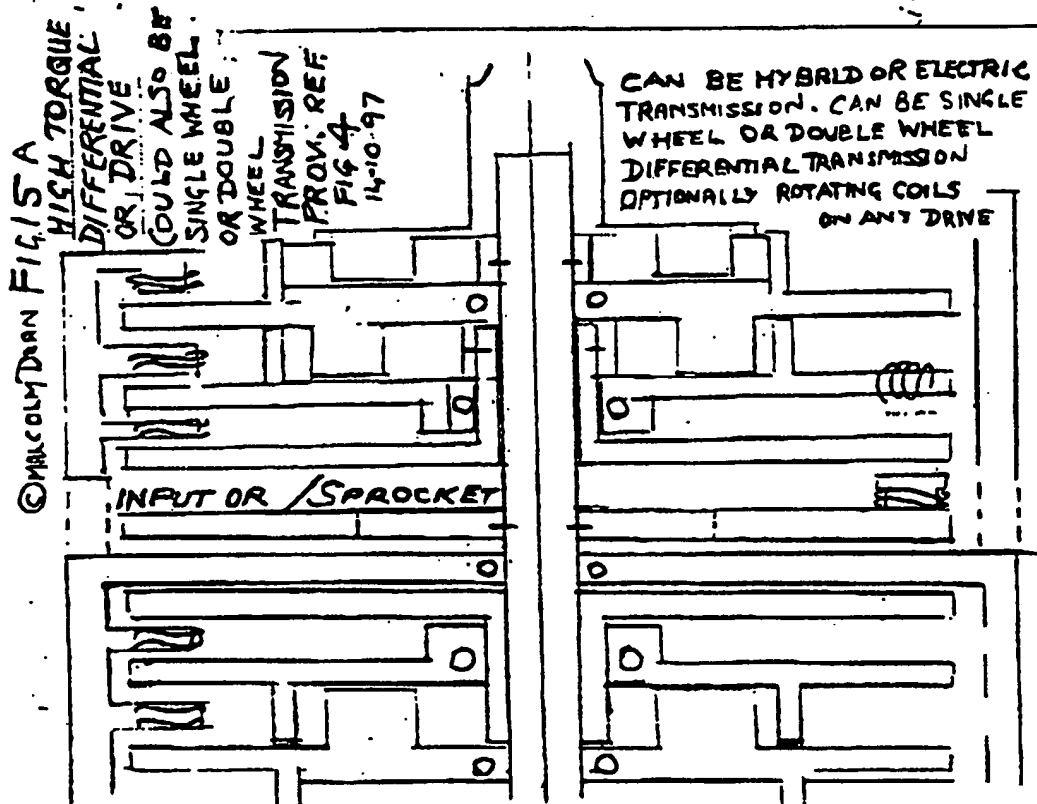
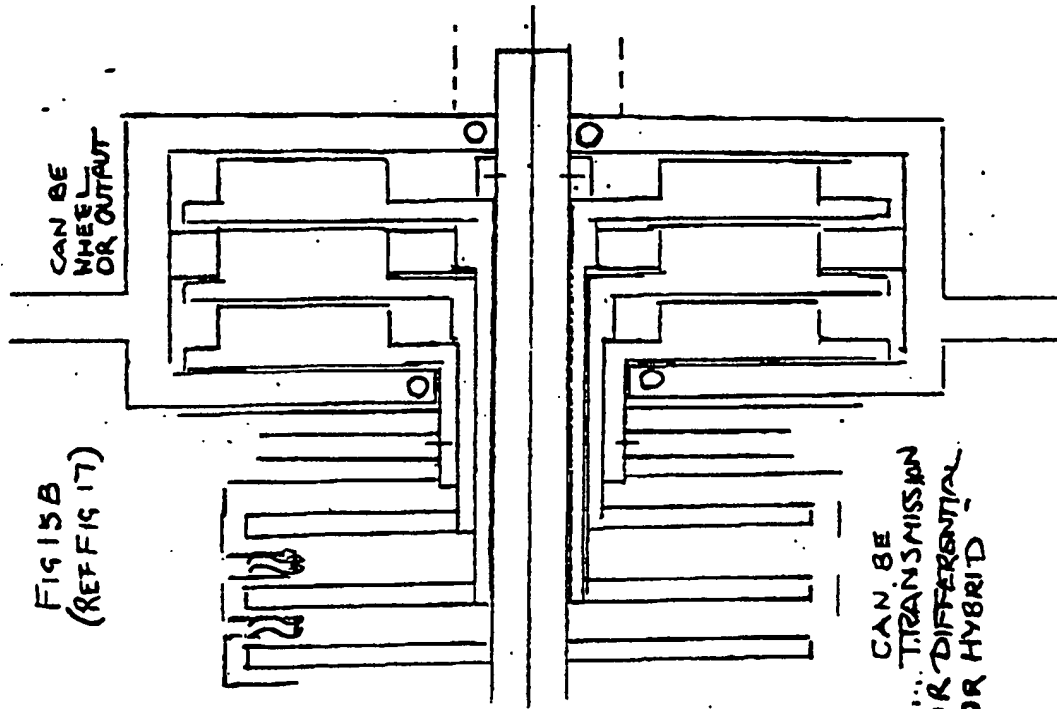
RATIOS CHOSEN CHOSEN TO MATCH THE FEEDBACK WITH THE FORCE REQUIRED

ALSO THE BODY OF THE GEAR IS NORMALLY FIXED - BUT IF
ALLOWED TO IT COULD BE ROTATED LIKE THIS: (EITHER WAY)



CAN ALSO BE COMBINED WITH
FIG 3 STEERING GEAR TO CORRECT
CASTER AS WELL





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FIG 16 B
REF. FIG. 3, 4, 6.

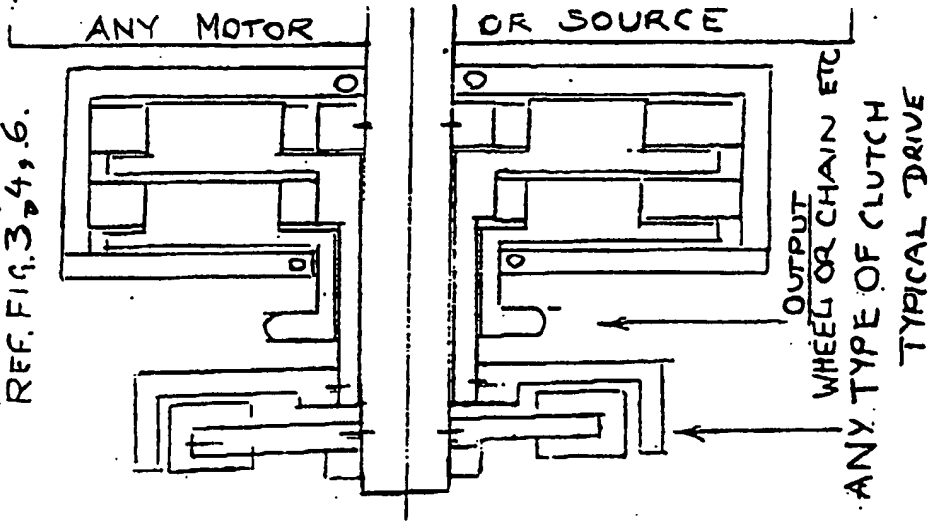
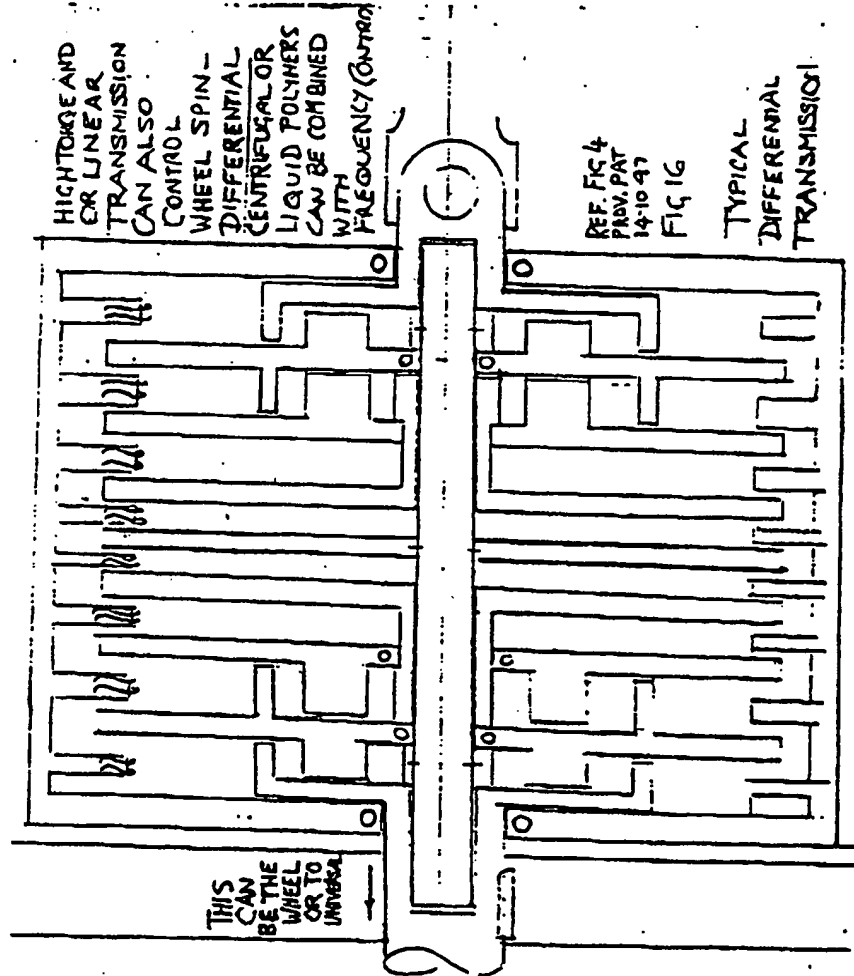
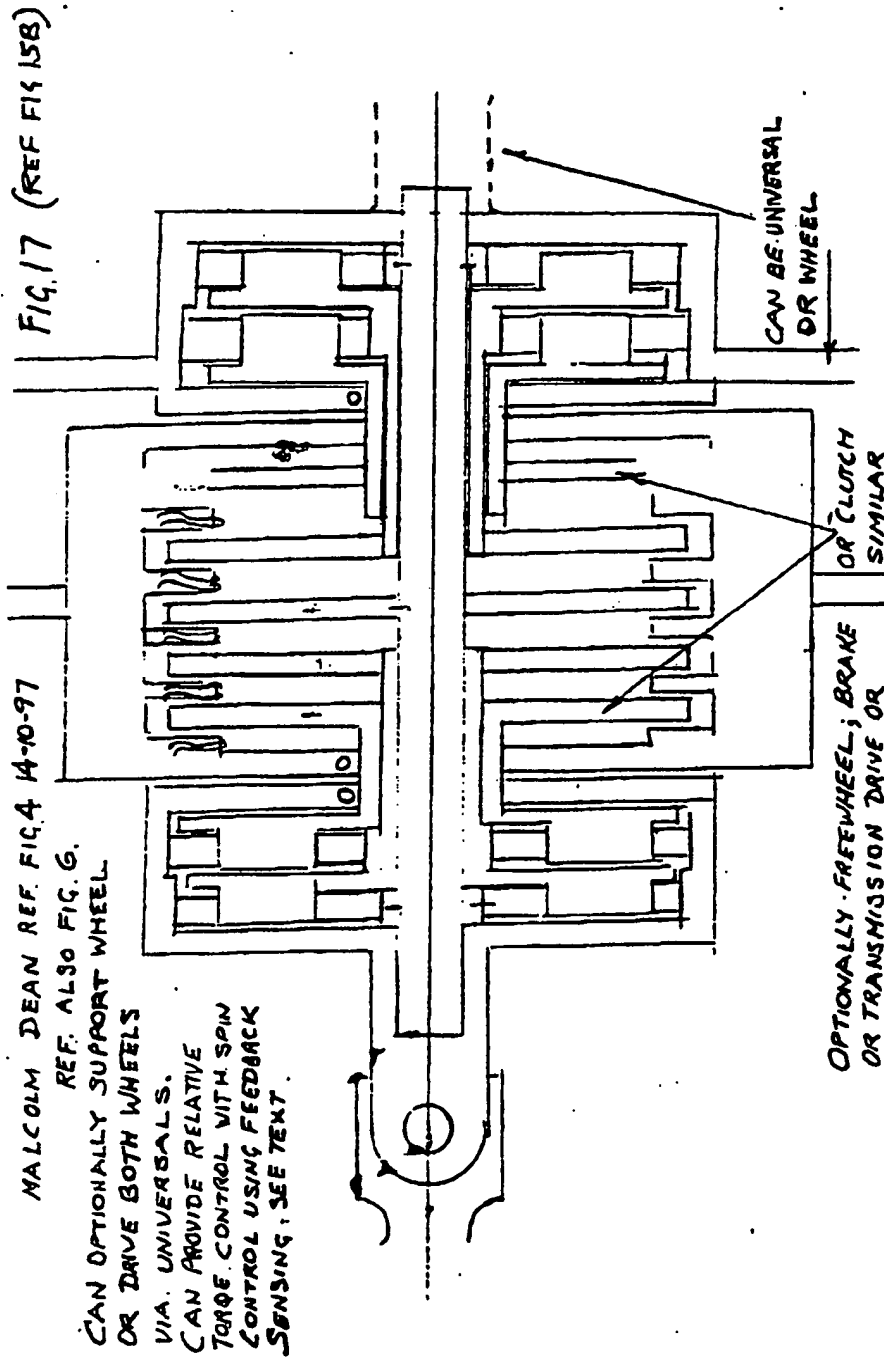


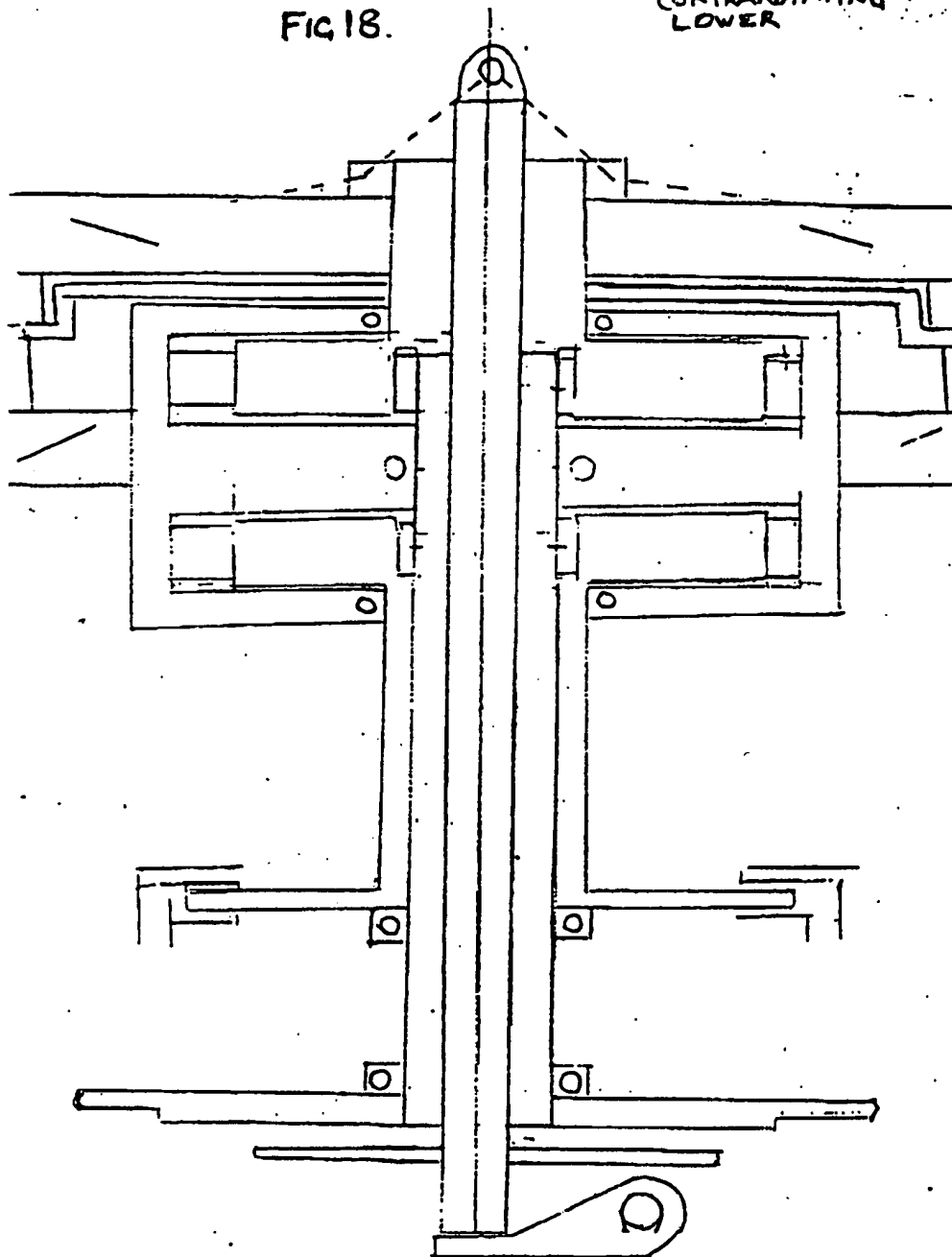
FIG 16 A





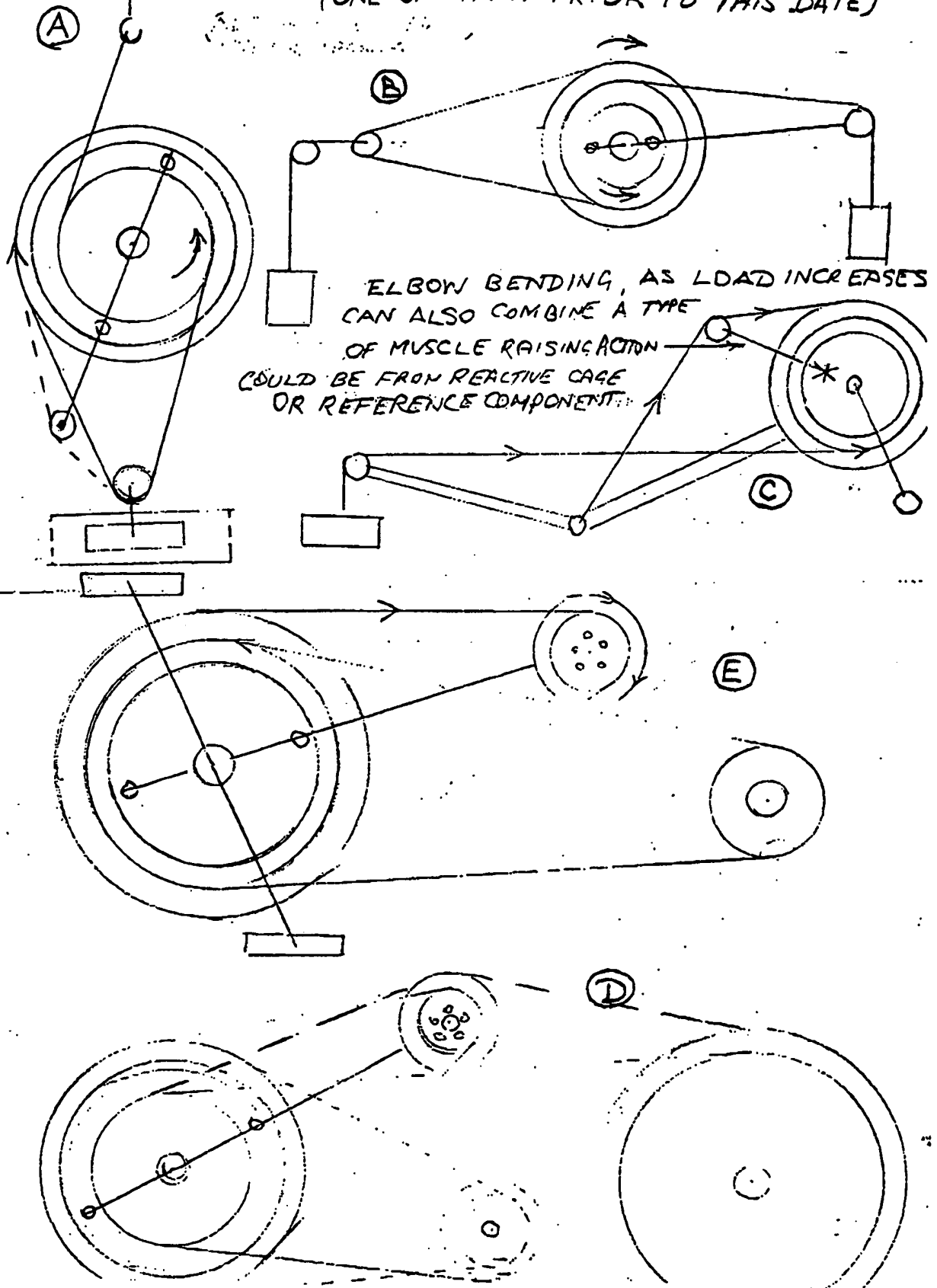
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FIG 18.

SWASH
CONTRAROTATING
LOWER

17/28

MALCOLM D 617 8498240-2-99
FIG (9)A SEE ORIGINAL DRAWING DATED 6-6-96
(ONE OF MANY PRIOR TO THIS DATE)



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FIG 24

[illegible]

24 *
BUILT IN FEATURES:
GEARING; MULTIRATING;
ACTUATORS; COMPASSION
ROTARY COMBUSTION ENGINES

THE ABILITY TO TOTALLY ENCLOSE TRANSMISSIONS OPTIONALLY, WITH ALL THE WIDOID COMPONENTS, CAN BE USED, ROTATING INTERVALLY

HYDRAULICS } INTERNAL
CUSTOMING }
CONTROLLING } EXTERNAL
TRANSMISSION CAN BE
INTERNAL PART OF DRIVING
SOURCE AND SHAFT/AXIS
AND FOR COMMON SHAFT/AXIS

INTERNAL CONTROL
OR EXTREMELY TEXT
/E LIQUID POLYMERS
SHOWN
CAGES CAN BE SEPARATE
WITH CUSHIONING USING
/E. OIL PRESSURE

Pro

CAN USE ANY TYPE OF PLANETARY GEAR
CAN BE ANY PUMP OR CAN USE A MODIFIED HYDRAULIC PUMP

CAN BE MOTOR/GENERATOR/DUALING TO HYBRID

CAN BE
BAKE AND/
HYBRID IN A
2

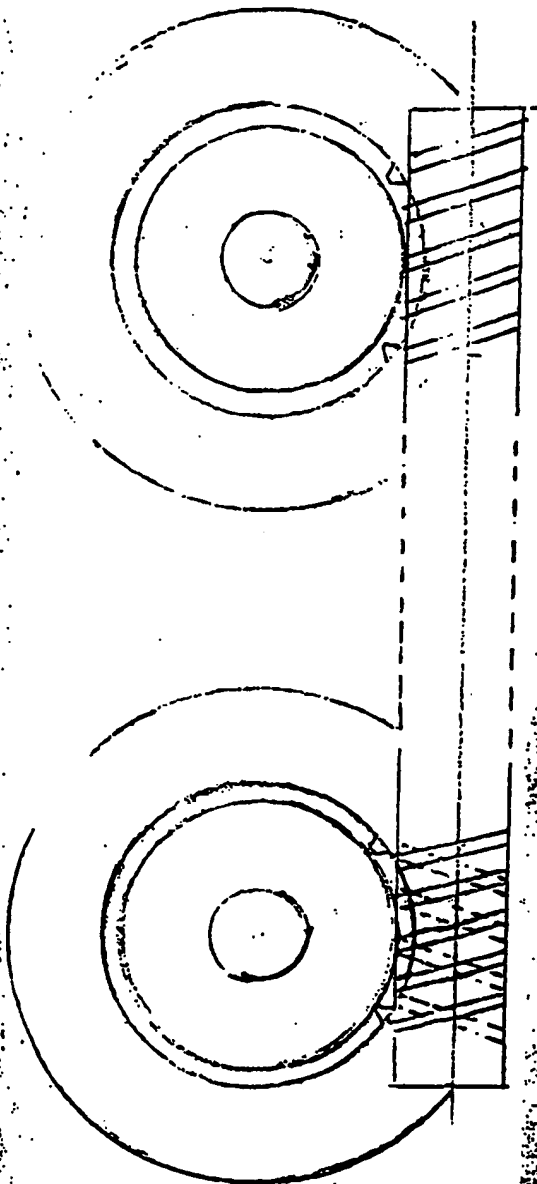
19/28

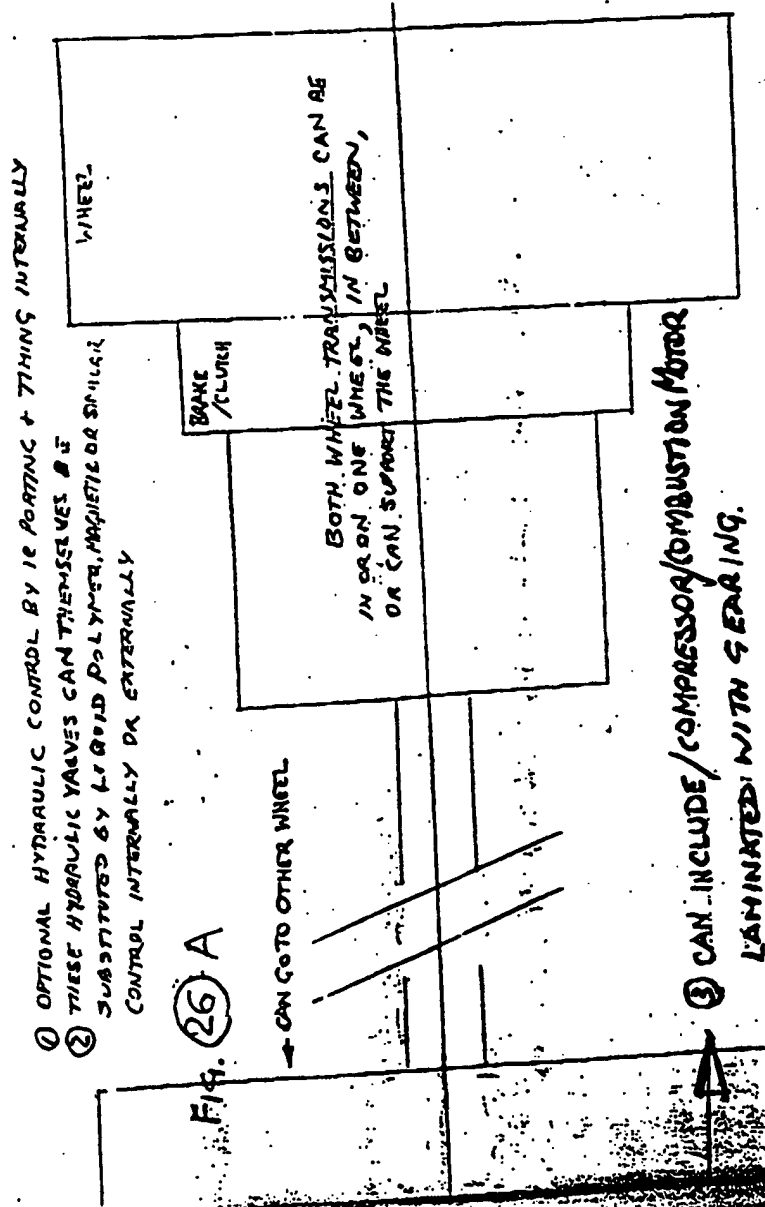
(25)

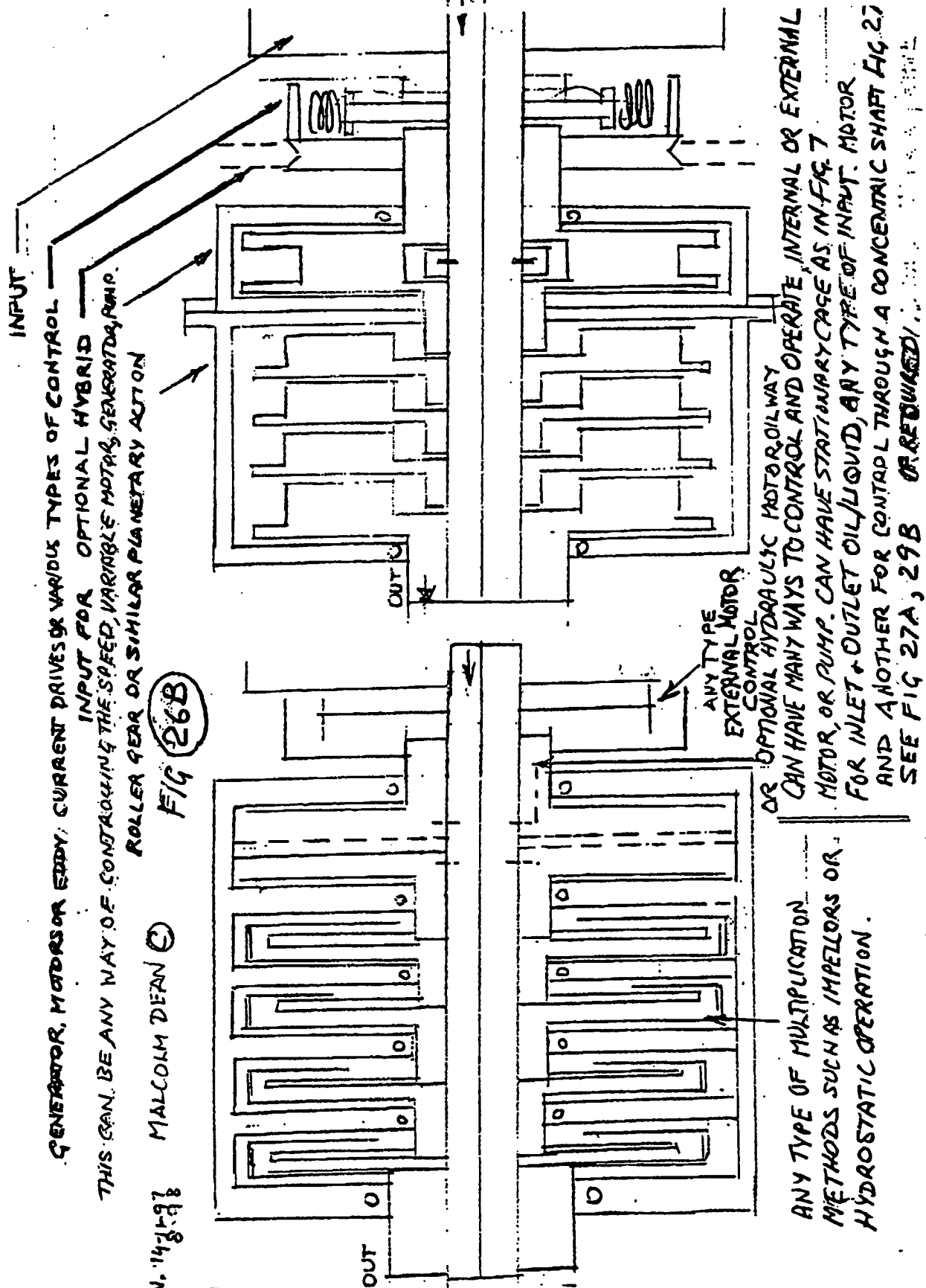
OPTIONALLY GAGE OR
DRIVING WHEELS BETWEEN AXLES

OUTER BODY/S CAN BE WORN (FROM WHEEL DRIVE)

FIG. 25







NOV. 14 1997

MALCOLM DEAN

22/28

FIG 27A

CONFIDENTIAL

REV 11 JUN 3, 46,

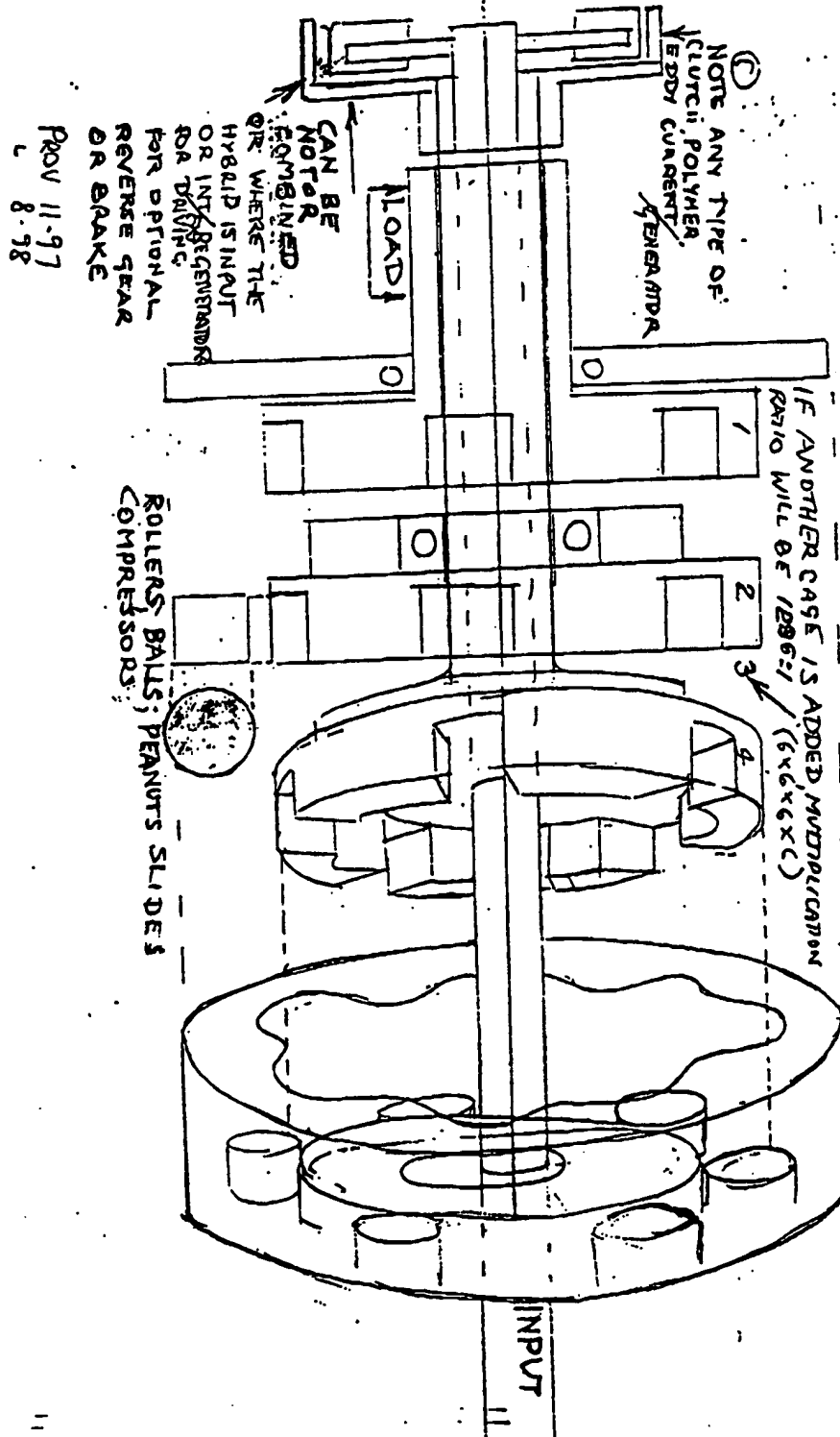
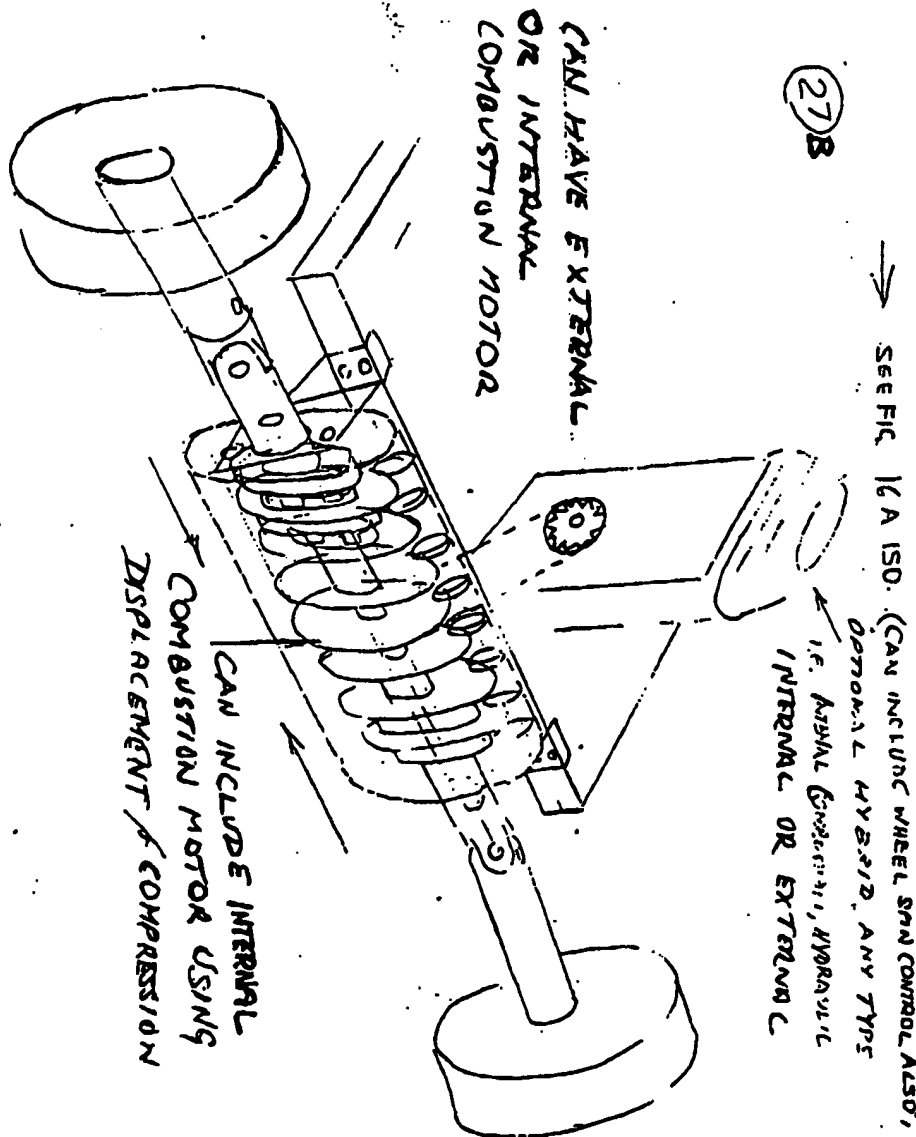
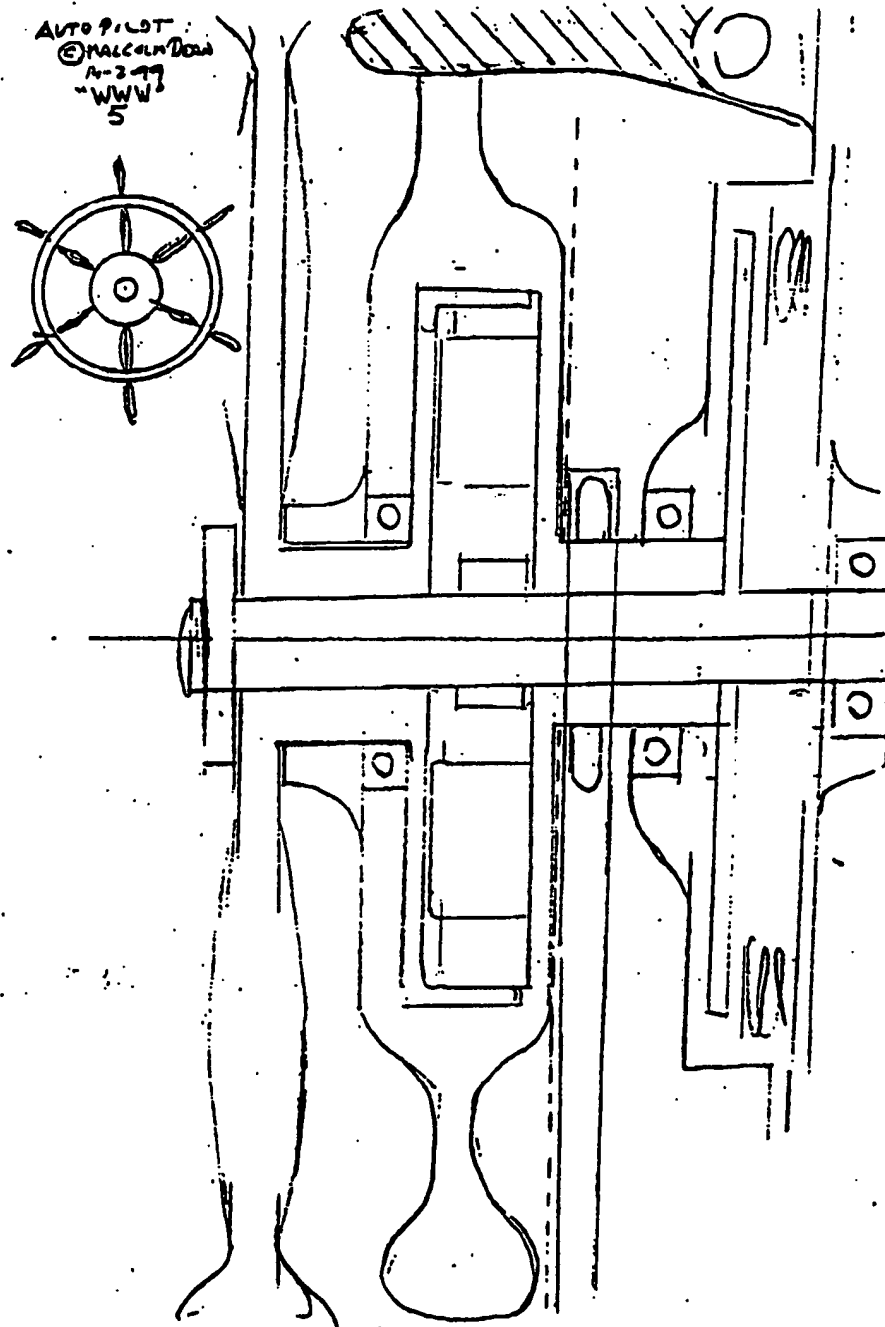


FIG 27B



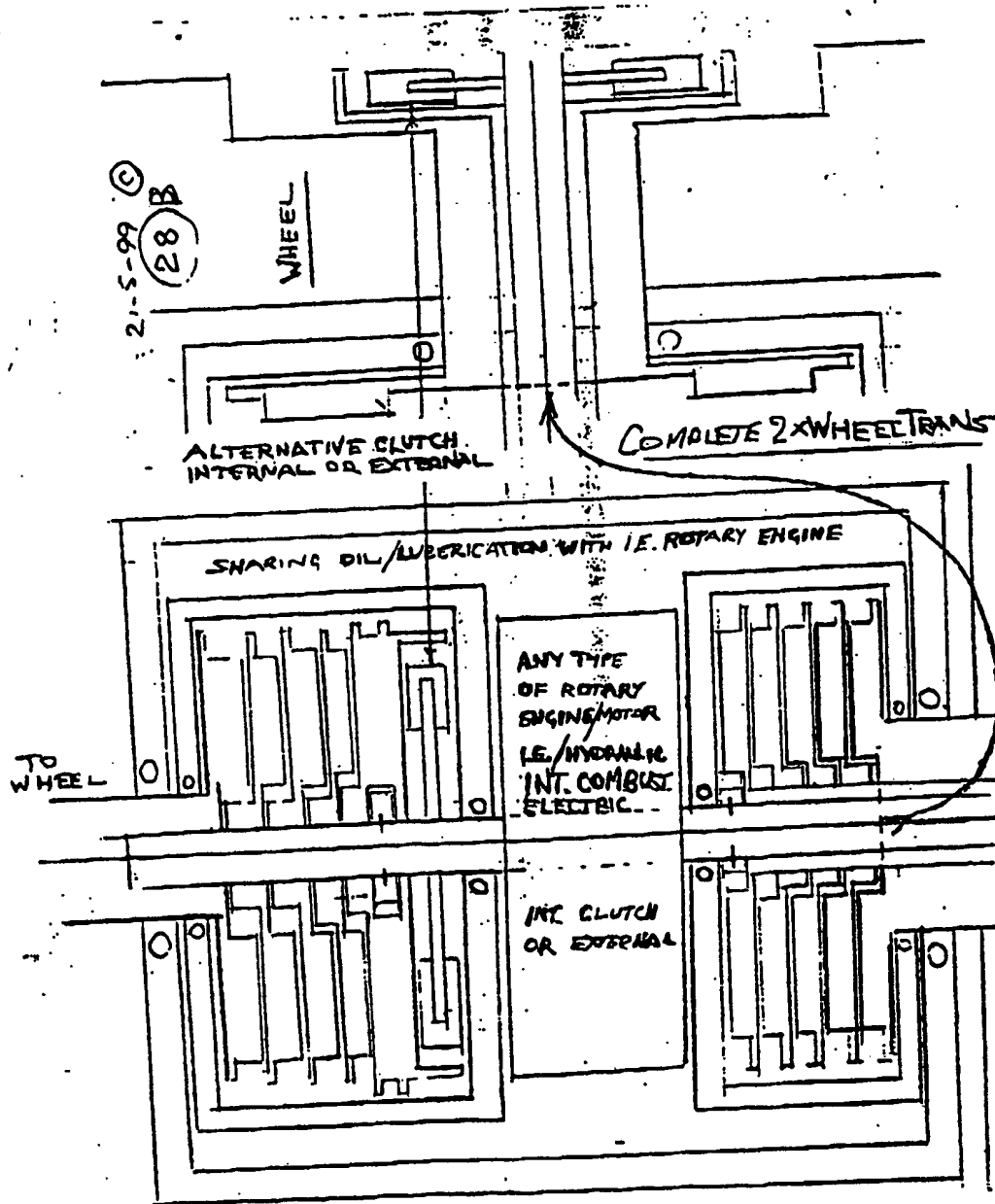
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FIG 28 A



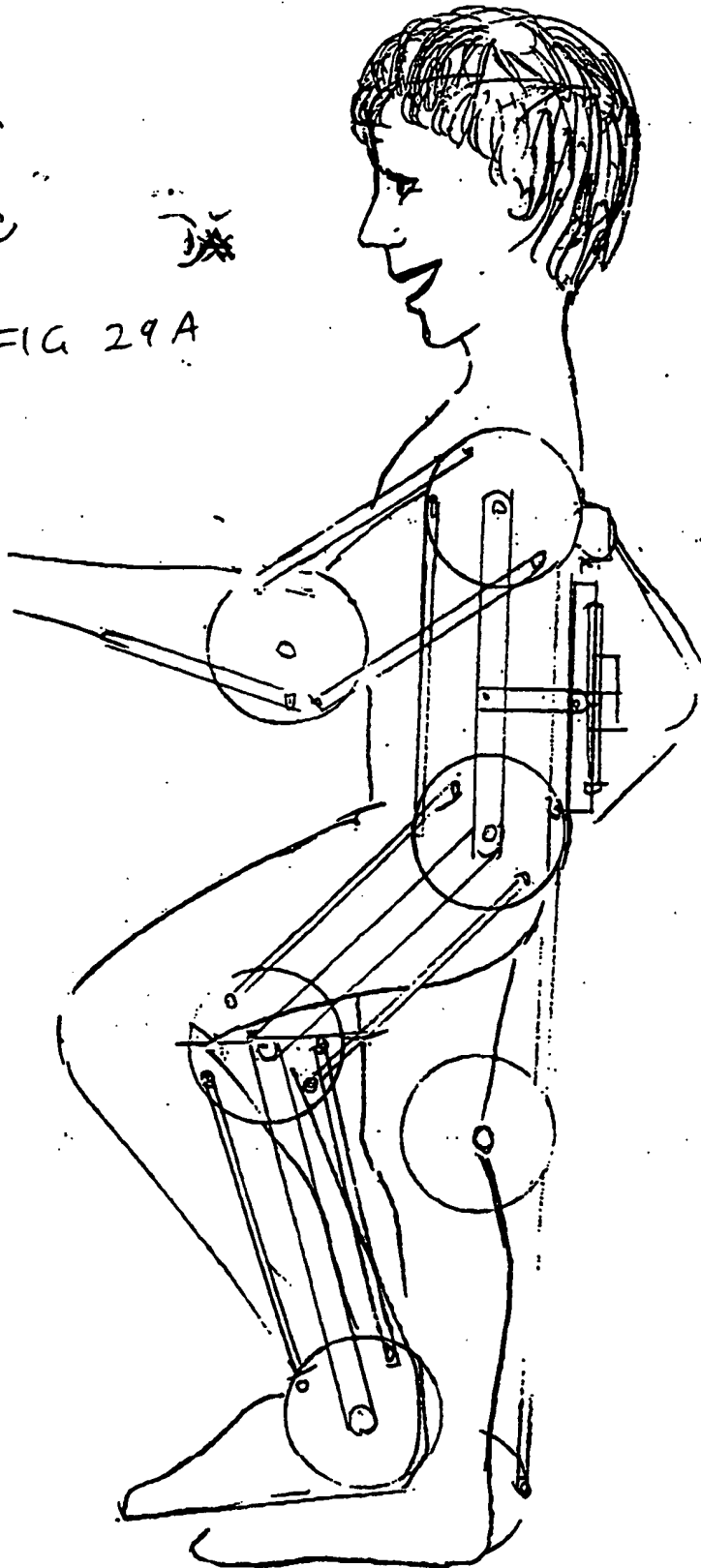
25/28

FIG 28.B



A.
C. ~~3A~~

FIG 29A



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FIG 29A B

MALCOLM DEAN (29B)
REF 24B

THIS IS A HIGH
RATIO RELATIVE
TO THE INPUT
SOURCE/S

ANY TYPE OF CATCH
PREFERABLY POWER
GENERATING FOR
MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY
AND CONTROL

GENERATOR
EDDY CURRENTS
SEE N.W. DEVELOPMENT

CAN BE MOTOR
GENERATOR COMBINED
PROV. PAT 141197
898

TYPICAL CONVERSION VARIATIONS

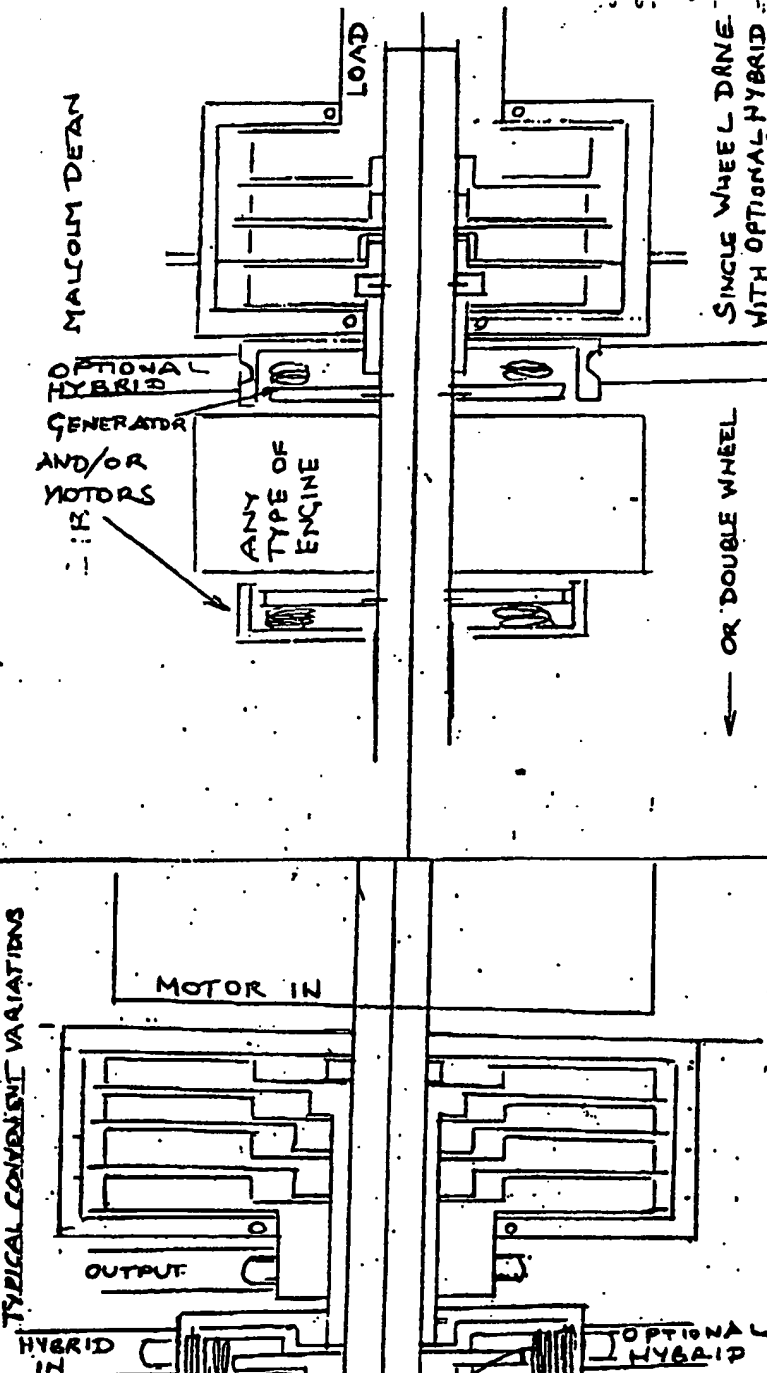
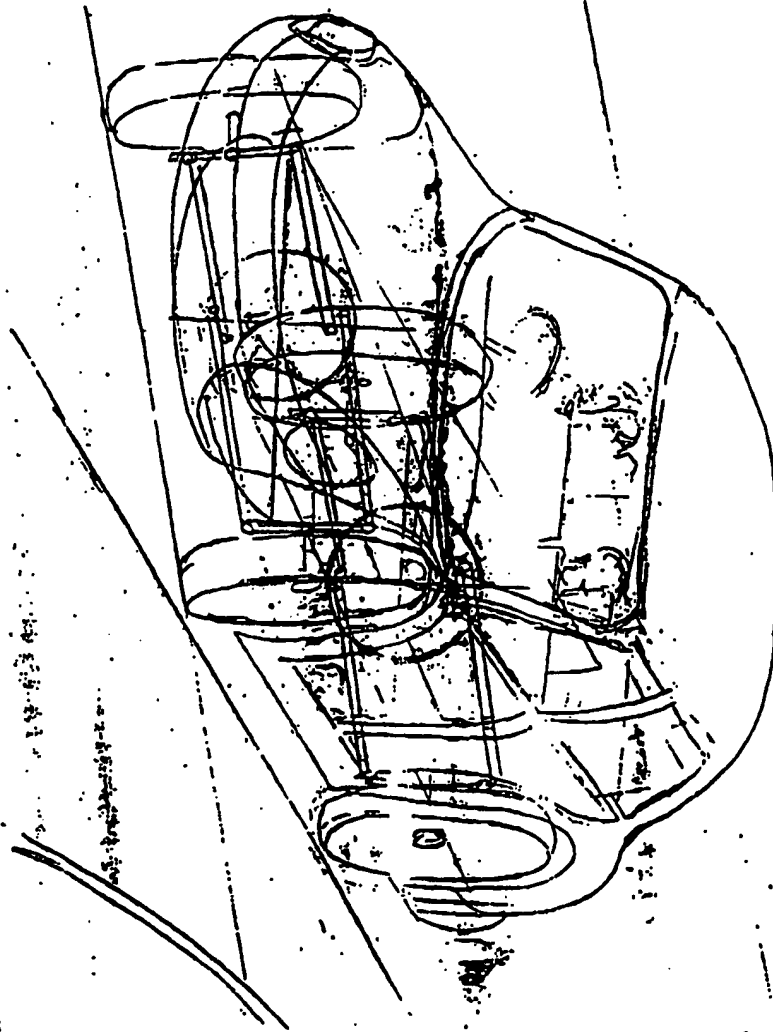


Fig (30)



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00452

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt Cl⁶: F16H 3/72, 25/06, 29/02, 29/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

F16H 3/72, 25/06, 29/02, 29/10, 29/12, 29/14

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPAT

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 1199257 A (LEESON) 22 July 1970 Column 3, lines 26-36	1-2
X	MACHINE DESIGN MAGAZINE, "Mechanical adjustable-speed drives", June 1990, by Penton Publications Page 74 -planetary differential gearing	1-2
X	EP 794360 A (MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES LTD) 10 September 1997 Whole document	1-2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 June 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

06 JUL 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 99/00452

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Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member	
EP	794360	CA	2198582
		JP	9296851

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